

Tutu meets Reagan, Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nobel laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu and President Ronald Reagan discussed South African policy in a 40-minute White House meeting on Friday, U.S. officials said. Bishop Tutu then went to an adjacent office for a meeting with Vice-President George Bush, the officials said. The meeting with the black South African winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize came as Mr. Reagan faced growing U.S. pressure to get tough with South Africa. Bishop Tutu says Mr. Reagan's policies toward the white-minority regime encourage apartheid and are "immoral, evil and totally un-Christian." The Bishop arrived in a black limousine at the west portico of the White House and did not speak to reporters as he hurried through the cold Washington morning to the entrance for the meeting in the Oval Office. Mr. Reagan declined to say when asked by reporters at the start of the meeting, how he would respond to Bishop Tutu's criticism of his policies.

Jordan Times

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Top U.N. official arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The U.N. assistant secretary general for social development and humanitarian affairs and secretary general of the world women conference, Mrs. Lesley Shabert, arrived here Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan. During her visit here, Mrs. Shabert will meet with a number of officials in the private and public sectors.

Cheysson replaced in reshuffle

PARIS (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson was replaced by government spokesman and European Affairs Minister Roland Dumas in a cabinet reshuffle announced Friday. An announcement from the Elysee presidential palace said Social Affairs Minister Georgina Dufoux would assume the post of government spokeswoman in addition to her portfolio. Jack Lang, formerly junior minister of culture, has been promoted to full minister status.

'Egypt condemns Israeli project

NEW YORK (Petra) — Egypt has strongly condemned Israel's plan to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea across the occupied Gaza Strip. Egypt's representative to the United Nations, who was addressing the U.N. General Assembly special political committee, said the construction of the canal is part of an "unjustified Israeli provocation in the occupied Arab territories." He added that implementation of the project jeopardizes economic resources of the occupied Arab territories and constitutes a flagrant violation of all the international rules and norms.

Kohl sees new hope for East-West ties

BONN (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Friday that both superpower blocs appear ready to begin a "new phase" in their relationship. In a parliamentary address one week after meeting with President Ronald Reagan, Dr. Kohl said he welcomed the U.S. leader's assurance that Washington would consult closely with its Western allies during upcoming U.S.-Soviet arms control talks. The chancellor said a West German-American declaration issued after their meeting was an "offer" to the Soviet bloc for arms control negotiations.

Kyprianou heads for U.N. talks

ATHENS (AP) — Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou left for New York Friday to resume United Nations-sponsored peace talks on the future of Cyprus. Earlier, Mr. Kyprianou took part in a joint meeting with Greek President Constantine Karamanlis and Premier Andreas Papandreu. Mr. Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş have been meeting separately in New York with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

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Hussein pledges to press efforts for international conference

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday Jordan would keep pressing efforts for an international conference on the Middle East to solve the Arab-Israeli problem. Addressing the United Services Institute for Defence Studies, King Hussein said action was urgently needed to break the impasse in efforts for peace in the Middle East because the situation in the region was a threat to world peace. He said the move was an attempt "to create a situation in which Jordan, along with its Palestinian and other Arab partners, can breathe new life into the moribund peace process."

King Hussein defended Jordan's resumption of relations with Egypt and said it was not an attempt to form an axis to check the growing influence of other Arab states. "Egypt's reunification with its Arab family will reinforce the stability of the region and strengthen the Arab responsible constituency," he said. King Hussein said Jordan was looking at the possibility of buying arms from the Soviet Union because the United States had refused to supply the weapons it wanted for legitimate defence. But this did not signify a change of direction for Jordan, he added. He said that if the Reagan administration in its second term had a change of heart on the arms, "we will accept them if and when the United States provides them to us with no conditions."

King Hussein said he was alarmed by calls within Israel for the forcible mass expulsion of the Arab population from the Jewish state and occupied territories. "Whether the Arabs are expelled or remain, creeping annexation of the occupied territories, unless halted, will create an explosive situation," he said. "If the Arabs stay in their ancestral homeland they face virtual slavery under an Israeli apartheid system." "Their expulsion, on the other hand, will destabilise the politics not simply of the neighbouring states but of the whole Arab World."

Following is the full text of King Hussein's speech: Ladies and gentlemen, It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today and it is indeed an honour to address your esteemed institution. I see this opportunity as one of renewing old friendships and exchanging views through a channel which constitutes an important adjunct to formal discussion. The states of the Arab World not only enjoy a most strategic location, but also share an immense degree of complementarity. This region has cradled three of the world's leading religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. It has produced in the past a large number of thinkers, saints and prophets. Today this same region distinguishes itself mainly by producing the highest number of oil barrels and by facing the most dangerous peace problems.

How does one measure political stability? For many years the outside world has measured stability in Arab politics by the frequency of military coups. By this yardstick the politics of the Arab World seem to have been remarkably stable. Since 1970 no Arab regime has actually been overthrown. However, as we all know, not only are the politics of the region far from stable, but the prospect of future instability in the Arab World with its far-reaching international implications, remains a matter of grave concern.

Although Arab regimes may have been able to maintain control, turbulent politics continue to be a salient feature of the Arab political scene. The Arab World has rarely been given by as many difficulties, dissensions and disputes as it is today. From North Africa to the Gulf feuds and conflict are the hallmark of public affairs, as within these states social and political tensions rise and subside, inexplicably at times, while the underlying causes of instability become increasingly complex and intractable by the day.

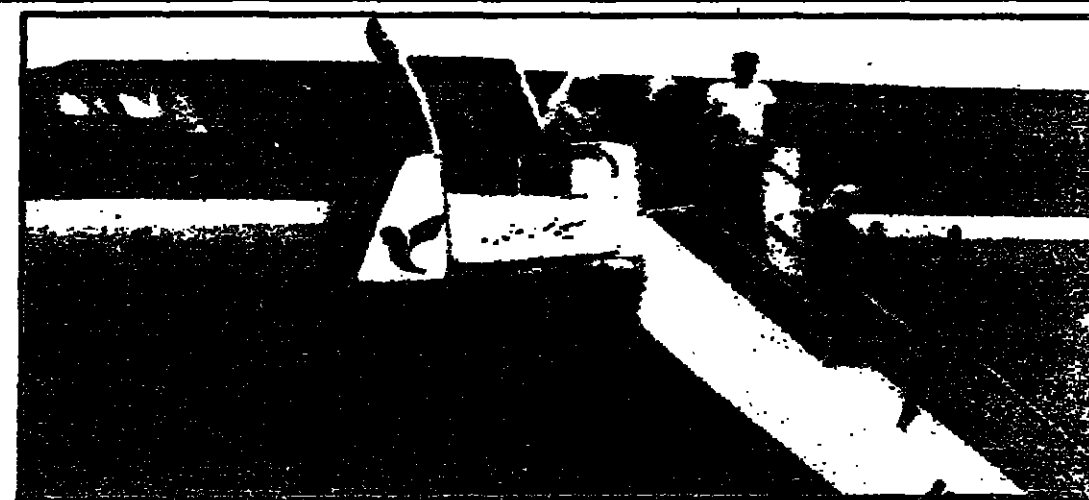
Yet it is not hard to identify the sources of instability. Some of these are undoubtedly indigenous and endemic, others have been externally induced. Whatever the reason there can be little doubt that instability poses a serious threat to the security of the Arab states, threatens the peace of the region and could easily become a catalyst for war. We live in a period of uncertainty and insecurity, exacerbated by the seeming inability to resolve outstanding issues. The Arab World today is rich in problems and lacking in effective international support for comprehensive and just solutions. For more than two generations now, the question of Palestine has been crying for a just and lasting settlement. Failure to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict has increased tension not only between the Arab states and Israel, but also among the Arab states themselves and has provided a major impetus for extremist politics. The crisis in Lebanon has repeatedly defied resolution both by the Lebanese and their neighbours and the international community, with the result that we are confronted with a highly volatile situation that clearly increases the threat to the entire region of social, communal and political fragmentation. The Gulf war moreover, in addition to the obvious danger it presents to the sovereignty and security of Iraq, is a potential threat to all the states of the Gulf region, an area of vital strategic interest to world peace, and is thus a further destabilising factor.

Hijackers threaten further murders if demands not met

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Hijackers holding a Kuwaiti airliner here threatened to resume killing American and Kuwaiti passengers Friday if Kuwait refuses to broadcast a statement they released, reported the official Iranian news agency, IRNA.

IRNA said the hijackers' statement revealed for the first time that a total of four passengers have been killed by them so far — two Americans and two Kuwaitis. The two Americans were identified in the statement as Charles Freud and William Stanford, IRNA said. Some hours after the message was relayed to the control tower at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said shots rang out aboard the aircraft. There was no immediate indication whether the shots were linked to the threat. Iran agreed earlier to publish the hijackers' statement as a condition for the release of more of the 70 or so hostages still believed aboard the plane. According to IRNA, however, Iranian authorities told the hijackers they were not responsible for the message being broadcast on other radios but have forwarded it to the Kuwaiti government. In the message, the hijackers explained events which occurred during the hijacking and reiterated their demands. These were not specified, but they are believed to include the release of some convicted saboteurs jailed in Kuwait for their part in a wave of bombings there nearly 12 months ago. Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said later that the hijackers had released some more hostages, but they did not know how many. The hijackers' statement said the four passengers shot dead during the previous three days of the hijack drama were killed because the hijackers' demands for the release of prisoners from Kuwaiti jails were left unanswered. The hijackers also listed three Kuwaiti officials they said would be among their next victims if their demands were not met. They named them as Ibrahim Al Mohanna, described as an "advisor," Khalifa Hussein Al Muslim, ambassador plenipotentiary and Mahmoud Abdul Rahim Al Anzi, whom they said was head of the inspectorate department and a former Kuwaiti prosecutor. An official account of the hijackers' conditional offer to release more hostages did not say how many would be freed. The hijackers said in their statement on Friday "we do not have any enmity towards anyone and we do not intend to deny the freedom of anyone or to frighten anyone."

Referring to their "innocent brothers" held in Kuwait, they said they were determined to die if necessary to free them, according to the statement carried by IRNA. "We will not make the slightest retreat from our position..." it said. Jordan condemned the killings Thursday and said "such terrorist actions directed against innocent people contradict Arab and Islamic traditions and norms." His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday contacted the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, over the phone and conveyed Jordan's deep condolences over the death of the Kuwaiti passengers killed by the hijackers in Tehran, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The actions of the hijackers "serve the enemies of the Arab Nation," Petra quoted the Regent as telling Sheikh Jaber. The Crown Prince, who also contacted the Kuwaiti prime minister and his apparent, Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, affirmed Jordan's "firm stand against any form of terrorism," Petra said. Earlier Friday the hijackers cut the radio link for up to three hours, raising tension among Kuwaiti and Iranian officials negotiating at the airport. But the hijackers, Arabs speaking with Lebanese accents according to passengers released earlier, kept radio contact with Kuwait.



An unidentified negotiator raises his hands in vain to stop the shooting to death of an American diplomat in a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner at Tehran Thursday (AP wirephoto)

Murdered diplomat laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — The funeral of Jordanian Embassy Counsellor Azmi Al Mufti, who was assassinated in Bucharest on Tuesday, took place in Amman on Thursday. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan led the mourners who took part in the funeral procession from Al Hussein Medical Centre to Al Musdar Cemetery in Amman. Also taking part in the funeral were Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and

Akef Al Fayez respectively, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, cabinet members, parliament deputies, senior officials, ambassadors and relatives of the deceased. Also attending was Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencovici. The body of Mr. Mufti arrived in Amman from Bucharest on Wednesday evening and was taken to Al Hussein Medical Centre.

The mourners who took part in the funeral attended prayers for the dead held at the mosque in the premises of Al Hussein Medical Centre, and Foreign Ministry officials carried the coffin as it reached the cemetery to the spot where it was laid to rest. Following the funeral ceremony, the mourners offered condolences to Prince Hassan and to members to Al Mufti family.

Arabs urge Japan to play role in reshaping U.S. policy

TOKYO (R) — Arab oilmen told Japan Friday that it should seek to dissuade the United States from backing Israel if it wanted to keep a secure supply of oil from the Middle East. Gulf oil experts told Japanese industrialists at a two-day symposium on cooperation between Japan and the Arabs that there could be no secure oil link unless Japan played a role in reshaping U.S. strategy supporting Israel. Japan gets more than 60 per cent of its oil from the Arab World. Despite intensive efforts to diversify its sources, it will still depend on the Gulf for 40 per cent of its supplies by the year 2000. Dr. Hassan Al Ibrahim, a former director of Kuwait University, said the biggest threat to a secure supply of oil to Japan came from Israel. Japan should therefore not contribute financially or otherwise to the rapid deployment force stationed by the United States in the Gulf to protect Israel, he said. He said the U.S. policy towards the Arab World in general had caused an extremely tense situation which could lead to an oil supply disruption disastrous for Japan.

Ibrahim Al Abed of the United Arab Emirates Information Ministry said: "We don't like being thought of as only oil suppliers. Our economic partners must share our problems and use their influence." Dr. Abdul Al Anbari, director of Iraq's External Development Fund, said Japan would have to forget about "absolute security" in its oil supplies and learn to live with the idea of "relative security."

Percy says Jordanian proposal could be adapted

WASHINGTON (R) — Senator Charles Percy, outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Thursday that a Jordanian peace proposal could be adapted so it did not conflict with the 1978 Camp David accords. But he stopped short of saying he would urge the Reagan administration to embrace the proposal from King Hussein for an international conference that would bring both Moscow and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) into the Middle East peace process. In a wide ranging interview with a small group of reporters, he said he believed that with the re-election of President Reagan, Moscow realised it must strike a deal on arms control. He said the Camp David accords were a "flexible foundation" for achieving peace.

Wider Egypt-Israel ties vital for peace, Rabin says

LONDON (R) — Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday that "warming-up" of Israeli-Egyptian relations was vital in promoting a wider Middle East peace effort. Without improved bilateral relations, there was "no realistic chance of broadening the peace process," he told a meeting of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "It is of vital importance to warm-up relations as a precondition to move ahead," Mr. Rabin said. A state of "real peace" would have an impact on the whole region, he said. Egypt and Israel signed a separate peace treaty in 1979 and established diplomatic ties, but relations have been strained since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Mr. Rabin said Jordan was the only other Arab prospect for a possible accord with Israel. But, Jordan's recent call for an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and with Soviet participation "would lead nowhere," he said. Mr. Rabin said there had been "no progress on any issue in the Middle East except through bilateral negotiations." Rebels urged to avoid civil war, page 8

Craxi supports Hussein's call for Jordan-PLO joint move

TUNIS (R) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has endorsed a call by King Hussein for a joint approach with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) towards a Middle East peace settlement. "The Jordanian proposal constitutes a platform from which one can define a solution to the Middle East conflict," Mr. Craxi told reporters Friday during a 24-hour official visit to Tunisia. The prime minister, who met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Thursday night, said Mr. Arafat had shown an "unequivocal desire for peace and negotiations." "The PLO has made a clear choice for a political solution and not for terrorism," he said. King Hussein, in a speech to the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council (PNC), in Amman on Nov. 22, called on the PLO to join Jordan in a peace formula based on United Nations Resolution 242 and an international conference under U.N. auspices.

Mr. Craxi, whose country takes over the rotating presidency of the European Community for six months in January, said there was a need to define King Hussein's proposal because there was now a desire for peace in the region. King Hussein said his proposal did not constitute a peace initiative and he left some key questions unclear, such as the future relations between the Jordan and Palestinians in territories occupied by Israel in 1967. The PLO, after reacting coolly at first, has pledged to study the proposal and reinforce its ties with Jordan. The PLO news agency Wafa said Mr. Craxi and Mr. Arafat discussed Italy's role in developing the European stance on the Middle East towards "a clearer support for Palestinian national rights and for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." Also present at the two-and-a-half-hour meeting were Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and two members of the PLO's new Executive Committee, Fahd Qawasneh, former mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron, and businessman Jawed Ghossein, Wafa said.

YUGOSLAV TRADE EXHIBITION

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THE YUGOSLAV TRADE EXHIBITION

WILL OPEN AT 5 P.M. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1984, AT THE EXHIBITION COMPLETES PRODUCTS OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO TOUR THE EXHIBITION AS OF 9 TO THE EVENING OF DEC. 15, FROM 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

Mideast peace talks must include PLO, Egypt says

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's foreign minister has called on the United States to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which he said must be included in Middle East peace talks.

"I hope that our American friends can understand that we cannot achieve peace without negotiating with the Palestinians and the PLO," Esmat Maguid told a news conference.

"I think I can remind our American friends that at a certain moment you don't have to recognise an organisation to negotiate with it. The U.S. during the Vietnam War negotiated with the Vietcong," he added.

Washington has repeatedly echoed Israel's refusal to negotiate directly with the PLO while calling on Jordan to join the U.S.-sponsored Camp David peace process which resulted in the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Jordan restored relations with Egypt in September but King Hussein repeated his rejection of Camp David during a visit to Cairo last week.

Instead, King Hussein proposed

the convening of an international conference on the Middle East and a solution based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

Washington and Israel have rejected the concept of an international conference that would bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Maguid reiterated Egypt's support for the Jordanian proposals and said it was time for the U.S. to become a full partner in the search for peace.

He said Egypt would abide by its previous commitments and did not see a contradiction in supporting the Jordanian proposals alongside the Camp David accords.

Reminding Israel that Egypt was an integral part of the Arab World, he said he hoped Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir

"will realise that Egypt is an Arab country and any attempt to try to dissociate Egypt from her Arab brothers is certainly a very serious mistake."

Mr. Maguid said he believed the PLO had also accepted the Jordanian proposals.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has rejected U.N. Resolution 242 because it refers to the Palestinians only as refugees and does not mention their right to self-determination.

On security guarantees for Israel in any peace settlement, Mr. Maguid said: "No guarantees should be given to the conquests of Israel, but to the right of Israel to exist, yes."

He said Egypt was ready to resort to arbitration over Tabaa, a disputed strip of land on its border with Israel in the Sinai peninsula.

The Tabaa issue was left pending when Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in April 1982.

Meanwhile Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali Thursday praised recent efforts by the European

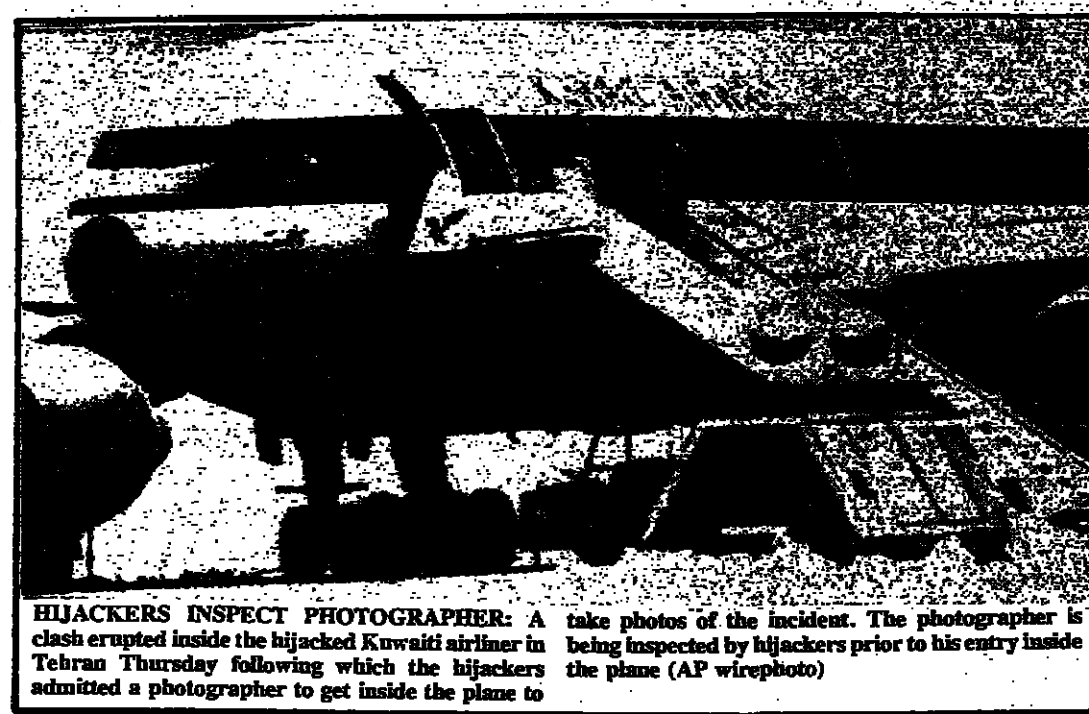
Community to involve itself in the problems of the Middle East, but said the United States held the key to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking at the end of a two-day visit to Belgium, Mr. Ghali stressed that Europe's role, although very important, must be in co-operation with the United States.

"You know the story of the two fighting elephants — it is always the grass that suffers," he said. In a statement issued at the end of their two-day summit meeting in Dublin on Tuesday, European Community leaders called for the development of contacts in the Middle East but fell short of proposing a fresh regional initiative.

Mr. Ghali stressed any peace initiatives would fail if Israel continued its policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"No global accord can be reached without the restitution of the national rights of the Palestinian people," he said, adding that conditions in the occupied territories had deteriorated 10 fold since former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel in 1977.



HIJACKERS INSPECT PHOTOGRAPH: A take photos of the incident. The photograph is being inspected by hijackers prior to his entry inside the plane (AP wirephoto)

Masri calls for Arab summit

CAIRO (R) — Jordan's Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has called for holding an Arab summit conference to discuss the subject of Arab solidarity and resumption of the Jordanian-Egyptian relations, Al-Dustour Arabic daily newspaper quoted the Qatari News Agency (QNA) as saying.

In a statement to the Cairo-based Al-Ahram newspaper, Mr. Masri Thursday said the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement

is the corner stone of any future steps for finding a just solution to the Palestine question.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian relations should come up with a joint work to liberate the occupied land, and not only to revive close coordination and cooperation between both sides," Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Masri added that Egypt has an important role to play in any forthcoming settlement to the

Middle East problem.

In answer to a question about holding a meeting at the summit level among Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Masri said: "We do not object to holding such a meeting, but we believe that the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is not yet ready for such a meeting, so it will take some time before such a meeting can be held."

PLO chides Europe over M.E. stand

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has complained that some West European states had weakened their support for a Middle East peace based on the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

"We call on all these states to exercise a more positive role in pushing forward the peace process on that basis," PLO foreign affairs spokesman Farouk Kaddoumi told the General Assembly's annual debate on the Palestine question.

"It is... unfortunate that some West European states have retreated from their role in support of the peace process in the region based on the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

Mr. Kaddoumi reiterated previous calls for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The U.S. and Israel have rejected such a conference saying it was likely to turn into a fruitless propaganda exercise.

In a reference to this, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "All peace efforts have come to a halt or have been aborted. We have lost a year of international effort in this direction because of United States and Israeli intransigence."

It was up to the United States if it did not wish to recognise the PLO, he said.

"But to refuse to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to

self-determination constitutes a question of law, morality and principle, equivalent to refusing to recognise the charter and the principles of the United Nations itself."

Mr. Kaddoumi said a recent meeting in Amman of the Palestine National Council had underscored the need to "coordinate with brotherly Jordan through joint Arab actions in order to liberate the land and enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights."

The Palestinians, through the council had also reaffirmed their "absolute rejection of Zionist and imperialist schemes" aimed at creating an alternative homeland for the Palestinian people of Jordan.

Iraqi PoWs describe Iranian atrocities

BAGHDAD (R) — A group of former Iraqi prisoners of war, recently freed in exchange for Iranian prisoners, have charged that they had been tortured by their Iranian captors with red-hot irons and whips.

"They kept us in mountain caves, where we were tortured so terribly that some of us lost our minds and others, including myself, were paralysed," Akram Qadir, 30, said.

"My colleague Abbas Yaqub Farhan was tortured with a red-hot iron till he lost his mind," he added.

"Another PoW, wing-lieutenant Muhammad Hatif Muzhir, was whipped 500 times to force him to change his conviction and loyalty," Qadir said. "When he refused, he was put in a 1.5-metre hole in the ground for months, with one meal per day."

Another PoW, 25-year-old Qassem Chaloub, said that last March Iranian soldiers fired on a group of PoWs at a camp near the Soviet border, killing 35 people and wounding 90 others.

The conference chairman, former Iraqi Information Minister Qasim Hamoudi, read extracts from a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross saying more than 50,000 Iraqi PoWs in Iran were under "grave threat."

Last February, the International Red Cross issued a communique accusing Iran in the Gulf war of grave violations of human rights.

Weinberger ends visit to Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — United States Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger left Saudi Arabia Thursday after a 24-hour stay during which he met King Fahd, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It gave no details of their discussions. Mr. Weinberger was thought to be flying on to London. Earlier Mr. Weinberger began military talks in Riyadh with Saudi

Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

It said Thursday's talks were part of consultations between the two countries on military affairs and expertise which could boost the strength of Saudi Arabian Forces.

He quoted Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to

the United States who attended the meeting, as saying that the U.S. was a friendly country and had excellent trade, economic and political relations with Saudi Arabia.

Prince Bandar also said: "There is also cooperation in the field of training and providing the Saudi Armed Forces with the arms and equipment they need."

Peres: Lebanon obstacle in Mideast

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Friday the problem of southern Lebanon was the biggest obstacle to reviving the Middle East peace process and his top priority was an informal agreement with Syria on an Israeli withdrawal from the area.

Mr. Peres, on an official visit to France, said in a television interview his second priority was summit talks with Egypt to resolve problems between them.

The third was to open negotiations with Jordan, whom he described as being "the key to a solution of the Palestinian problem."

Mr. Peres said France could contribute to peace moves through its close contacts in the Arab World and particularly in resolving the Lebanon issue through discreet diplomacy.

"In the Middle East in my opinion the true priority is to start with Lebanon, to resolve that problem, because it is today the biggest obstacle to renewing the peace process," he said.

Mr. Peres said he had spelled out Israel's position in a letter to

French President Francois Mitterrand shortly before Mr. Mitterrand flew to Damascus last week for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"The immediate problem between us and the Syrians is our respective (military) presences in Lebanon, how we can withdraw under an informal agreement with the Syrians," he said.

In a separate interview Friday with Le Monde newspaper the Israeli leader suggested that a United Nations force in the area should be increased from its present strength of just over 5,000 men to between 7,000 and 10,000.

France has already indicated it would be willing to increase its 1,500-strong contingent in the force to facilitate an Israeli withdrawal.

In the television interview, Mr. Peres reaffirmed Israel's refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but said he believed there were many Palestinians who were ready to negotiate with Israel, either directly or in a joint delegation with

Jordan.

On the general Arab-Israeli issue, Mr. Peres said that in the absence of direct contacts between the two sides there was a need for an intermediary.

In an evident reference to France, he said: "For the moment there is an intermediary on the level of dialogue, but I do not exclude the possibility that in the future there could be an intermediary in negotiations."

Mr. Peres, the first Israeli prime minister to be received in Paris for 20 years, began his visit on Wednesday with an emotional appeal for French help in building a "bridge of peace" with the Arabs.

He was having further talks with Mr. Mitterrand and French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius over lunch at the Israeli ambassador's residence Friday and was due to hold a news conference later.

His three-day official visit was expected to conclude Friday night with a reception for French artists and intellectuals, but he will be having private meetings Saturday before returning to Israel in the evening.

Jordan, Tunisia discuss inter-Arab cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar discussed with his Tunisian counterpart Mohammed Al Naser scopes of inter-Arab cooperation in social affairs. They also discussed the outcome of the Arab social affairs ministers council's meeting which ended here Thursday.

Following the meeting, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the council decided to offer urgent technical assistance to Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to help them meet the cost of humanitarian assistance and relief operations needed for the victims of the Israeli invasion in South Lebanon.

The council also decided to hold periodic training courses on social development and called on Arab countries to increase common cooperation in social affairs and exchange expertise and experience among them, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

He added that the participants in the council's meetings have stressed the need for establishing an Arab centre for training personnel employed in caring for children and called on Arab governments to promote the causes of Arab women organisations, to help women offer meaningful contributions to development.

Qadhafi says no troops in Chad

ROME (R) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, in an interview published here, denied that any Libyan forces were in Chad.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said in Paris that Libya still had troops in northern Chad, contrary to a Franco-Libyan agreement for a joint troop withdrawal due to have ended in mid-November.

Col. Qadhafi told the Rome daily Il Messaggero: "There are no Libyan troops in Chad. It was an American lie to destroy the dialogue between Libya and France."

He said forces which U.S. satellites were said to have spotted in northern Chad belonged to the Chadian Front faction fighting the government of President Hissene Habre.

"These military camps are now visited by joint Franco-Libyan-Greek commissions. And we are ready to accept the presence of visitors from other states to show that in Chad there are only Chadian forces," Col. Qadhafi said.

Libya's alleged failure to respect its agreement with Paris led to accusations in France that Mr. Mitterrand had been hoodwinked.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

06:00 Sports
06:25 Children's Programme
06:35 English Teaching
06:50 First Aid
07:00 Koran
07:10 Cartoons
07:20 Children's Programmes
07:30 Local Programme
07:40 Programme Review
07:50 Arabic Film
08:00 News in Arabic
08:10 Programme Review
08:20 News in Arabic
08:30 Film Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme
17:40 French Programme
18:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Sorry
21:00 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: The Users - Tony Curtis, Jacklyn Smith

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM
in parity on 9560 KHz SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
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14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Jordan Week
14:50 News Summary
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:50 Old Favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Good Old Days
20:30 Just a Minute
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Country Music
21:45 News Summary
22:00 Play of the Week
22:30 News Summary
23:00 Classical Concert
23:30 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Third 06:50 Financial News 07:00 Reflections 07:05 World News 07:09 News Summary 07:30 About Britain 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Hour 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 From the Weekends 09:45 Newsdesk U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 A Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:18 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Singers of the Week 12:00 News Summary 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 12:50 World News 12:59 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours News Summary 15:30 Newsdesk U.K. 15:45 Country Music Profile 16:00 News Summary 16:09 Newsdesk U.K. 16:30 News Summary 16:39 Newsdesk U.K. 16:50 News Summary 17:00 Newsdesk U.K. 17:09 News Summary 17:15 Saturday Special 17:30 News Summary 17:39 Newsdesk U.K. 17:50 News Summary 18:00 Newsdesk U.K. 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's road accidents claim four lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Four people were killed and another 98 persons were injured in 159 road accidents which occurred throughout the country during the last week, according to the weekly Traffic Department statistical bulletin. The bulletin said that 118 of these accidents occurred in Amman.

Dutch Armed Forces commander departs

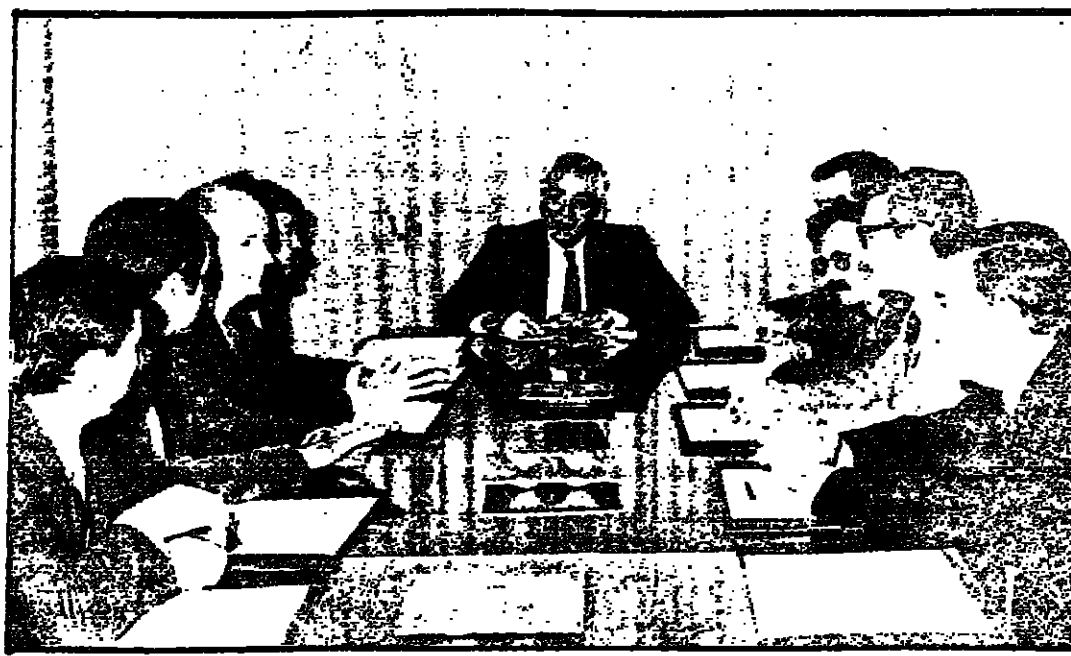
AMMAN (Petra) — The Commander-in-Chief of the Dutch Armed Forces returned home Friday after a several day visit to Jordan during which he met with Jordanian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Seeing him off at the airport was Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb and a number of senior military aides.

Tunisian delegation tours Jordan Valley

JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — A visiting Tunisian delegation paid a visit Thursday to the Dead Sea, the southern Jordan Valley area and the archaeological and historical sites of the area. They also visited the northern Jordan Valley area and viewed the tombs of the Prophet Muhammad's companions and the East Ghor Canal. Ajlun and Jerash were also visited by the delegation who toured the archaeological and historical landmarks of the area. Accompanying the delegation on their tour was Amman Deputy-Governor Mohammad Al-Jarir.

Russaifa citizens clean up their town

AMMAN (Petra) — The Prince Hashim estate in Russaifa witnessed a day of voluntary work Thursday which included implementing a cleanliness campaign and planting trees and flowers along the city's streets and main entrances as well as beautifying the estate and the roads leading to it. Taking part in the campaign were Zaqqa Assistant Governor Musleh Al Tarawneh, members of Russaifa municipal council, the Housing Corporation and a number of schools and social societies in the city.



Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamarneh (centre) reviews the Middle East situation with a Spanish delegation who are currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Hamarneh, Spanish delegation review Middle East, Palestinian situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamarneh conferred here Thursday with a visiting Spanish delegation. Mr. Hamarneh reviewed with the guests developments of the Palestine problem and different aspects of the Middle East situation. Mr. Hamarneh said that Jordan regards the Palestine problem as top priority in its policies and strives to achieve

a just and durable Middle East peace which can guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Mr. Hamarneh also spoke about Israel's practices in the occupied Arab lands and its drive to evict the local Arab inhabitants from their homeland. He also briefed the delegation members on Jordanian development projects. The Spanish delegation was

later received by Mr. Rizk Al Bataineh, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Bataineh reviewed with the delegation Spanish-Jordanian relations and voiced appreciation to Spain for its support of Arab causes in general and the Palestine cause in particular.

The head of the delegation spoke about the strong cooperation between Spain and Jordan in tourism and praised Jordan's policies towards various world problems. A number of house members were present at the meeting.

The Spanish delegation, which consists of 30 members including professors, members of the Spanish parliament, politicians, journalists and archaeologists, are in Jordan for a seven-day informal visit to improve relations between the two countries and to examine different possible fields of cooperation.

A spokesman for the delegation said the team is studying the possibility of importing Jordanian phosphates and potash as well as expanding trade relations in different fields.

Egyptian team selects local industrial products

Jordan, Egypt to sign \$30m trade deal today

By Sa'ad Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A \$30 million deal is due to be signed Saturday in Amman between Egypt and Jordan as the first phase in implementing the bilateral trade agreement for the year 1985.

A trade protocol, which was signed in Cairo, stipulates that Jordanian exports to Egypt should not be less than 30 different industrial items. An Egyptian delegation, headed by the chairman of the board of Al Nasr Company for Export and Import Kamal Hilali, is currently in Amman to select the items which will be included in the deal. The delegation, which arrived in Amman earlier last week, has already visited several Jordanian factories in Amman and Irbid during which it selected 35 major items for possible inclusion in the deal.

According to Mr. Hilali, the selected items ranged from textile products, refrigerators and leather products to detergents and electric heaters. Mr. Hilali expressed the hope that the volume of trade between Jordan and Egypt will reach \$150 million in the near future. "Egypt does not impose any restrictions on exporting Egyptian products to Jordan," he said.

Mr. Hilali explained that the agreement, which was signed right after the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan last September, includes \$7.5 million worth of tax exempted Jordanian goods imported via Al Nasr company, \$2.5 million goods which will be imported via the Jordanian Commerce Centre in Cairo while the other \$20 million will be open for various Egyptian private and public sector import companies, he added.

The trade protocol also comprises a "barter agreement" which allows for equal goods transaction between public sector export and import companies in both countries, he said.

Mr. Hilali pointed out that the agreement constitutes a sub-

stantial quantitative shift in the history of bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries. "The volume of trade between Egypt and Jordan prior to the breaking of bilateral relations in 1979 had never exceeded three to four million dollars," he said.

This is the second Egyptian trade delegation arriving in Amman within a month. The first one, headed by the Egyptian deputy minister of housing, signed a deal with the South Cement Company for one million tonnes of Jordanian cement, worth \$36 million.

The second delegation headed by the largest public company for

export and import in Egypt is paving the way for a complete cooperative trade transaction between the two countries.

Speaking of the Al Nasr Company Mr. Hilali said: "It was established in 1958 after the trade generalisation, since then it has played a great role in Egyptian external trade. It has 32 branches spread in Africa and Arab countries, and has had a branch in Amman since 1967. The company's exportation and importation reaches up to \$800 million a year, the lion's share of which goes to importation (\$600 million) and \$50 million for exportation while \$100 million is allocated for international bargains," he said.

Mr. Hilali is due to leave Amman on Saturday after signing the deal which will be signed by the Jordanian side by Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, director general of government commercial centres in Jordan.

Nijm inspects progress of Desert Highway project

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm Thursday inspected the progress of work on the JD 50 million Desert Highway construction project. Mr. Nijm then presided over a meeting, held at the Public Works Department in Ma'an, during which he discussed with the officials in Ma'an Public Works Department the progress of work and made an evaluation of the performance and achievements in the construction and maintenance works.

During the meeting Mr. Nijm urged the concerned officials to speed up the implementation of the roads and to double their efforts.

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Rosary Sisters mission marks its centenary, continues aim of spreading education for girls

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

Handiwork, paintings

AMMAN — On Saturday Dec. 8, the Rosary Sisters in Amman are celebrating the first centenary of the founding of their Congregation. The ceremony will start at 4 p.m. with a solemn High Mass celebrated by Bishop Selim Sayegh, Latin Vicar General, at the Church of the Rosary College in Shmeissani. A reception will follow, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Tyche Hotel.

This ceremony is one of the many that Rosary Sisters in the Middle East and Arab Gulf states are holding this year. The official opening of the centenary year, named by the Congregation "Jubilee Year", took place on Oct. 7, 1984, in Jerusalem, where the Congregation was founded. The official closing ceremony will also take place in Jerusalem on Oct. 7, 1985. October 7th is a special date for the Congregation, being dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. During this year, Rosary Sisters Congregations in each city have appointed different dates for their opening and closing ceremonies. The closing ceremony for the Rosary Sisters in Amman will take place at the Rosary Sisters College, in Shmeissani in July 1985, coinciding with the end of the academic year.

For this occasion, a show will be prepared by the students of the colleges, and an exhibition on the history of the Congregation will include handiwork prepared by the Sisters as well as a series of paintings by an Italian artist. Every student and her parents will be welcome to this celebration.

While 1885 is officially considered the founding year of the Congregation, being the year of the first profession of the Sisters, on July 24th, 1880 Father Youssef Tamoush Yamine, of Lebanese origin, founded the Congregation of the Rosary "to meet the missionary needs and serve the Church."

The need for such a Congregation became apparent to this patriarch when he visited Fuhais and noticed how, while a mixed crowd welcomed him with warmth, only the men attended to the Holy Mass he celebrated, sending the women back to their homes, according to the Muslim tradition. He realised that a Congregation was needed to specifically minister to the women, especially emphasising their education.

At about the same time, Mother Mary Alphonsine from Jerusalem received several appearances by

the Holy Virgin who revealed her wish to found a national Congregation by the name of the Holy Rosary. On Sept. 12, 1883, Mother Alphonsine obtained permission to be separated from St. Joseph's Convent which she had joined at 17, to join the Rosary Congregation. For her active work in the early stages of the Congregation, she is now counted as co-founder, together with Father Youssef Tannous. She is attributed miracles and predictions, among which the exact prediction of the date and place of her death.

The first mission in Jordan was founded in Fuhais in 1886. The next year, one more mission started in Salt. "We have now sisters in nearly every village", Mother Superior Atanas Machini told the Jordan Times.

Spreading education

The main calling of the Rosary Sisters is teaching. "We are dedicated to spread education among girls, especially the poor and the needy. That's why we work in every village of the country," Mother Atanas said. While in the villages the Rosary Sisters are working in cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate in their schools, in Amman and Irbid they have run their own private schools since 1949. Besides the main college in

Shmeissani, where girls are educated from kindergarten to the end of high school, there are branches in Jabal Amman and Al Mistar, which are only preparatory schools. A private school (only nursery at the present) was also completed in Agaba in 1984, and will start functioning in the coming year.

Founded especially for Arab countries, the Congregation only includes Arab Sisters. The Rosary Sisters are presently working in Jordan, in the West Bank, in Lebanon and in three Gulf states; Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. They have approximately 8,000 students in the Gulf, 5,000 in Lebanon and 17,000 in the West Bank and East Bank of Jordan, about 3,700 of which are in Amman. There are presently 284 nuns in 50 different convents.

"The ratio of educated girls in Jordan today is very high", Mother Atanas said, "but our beginnings were hard, as we had to fight against traditions that for centuries have deprived girls of education". The Rosary Sisters today are encountering different problems. "Today teaching is harder", Mother Atanas continued, "as girls are becoming more educated and independent", especially the class of girls attending their schools in Amman.

IM sheltered workshop displays varied services

Text and Photo
By Rania Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (IM), Friday organised an open house for the IM's sheltered workshop, where visitors had the chance to see mentally handicapped children working in the sheltered workshop and to display their handmade products.

Items on display were handmade rugs, ceramic items, clay products, embroidered pillows, towels and woven items produced on looms. Visitors also had the chance to see the handicapped children at work. Girls were operating the looms, some were weaving, others sewing and all of them were artistically involved in producing their hand-made products. Boys were busily engaged in performing some Lego work. In another room, handicapped children were dancing folkloric dances. According to Mrs. Evion Agidur, occupational therapist and director of IM's sheltered workshop, this dancing allows handicapped children to get a body feeling, it creates body balance and aids them in the process of socialising.

IM service in Amman started in 1968. It aims to assist and rehabilitate needy and suffering people regardless of race, nationality, political or religious beliefs.

Every child can learn

The IM organisation in Jordan is based on the conviction that "Every child can learn", according to Miss. Gunhild Sehlén, IM's director. She said that the IM centre caters for 300 mentally handicapped children in various categories. Concerning IM's present activities at Sweileh, Miss Sehlén said: "Our carehome section, accommodating 60 severely disabled children, consists of six sections where children get per-

sonal training and a special programme depending on what they themselves need to learn". Activities in the programme include activities for daily living, feeding training, toilet training, hygiene and teaching the children to dress themselves. There are physiotherapists who work with the physically handicapped children and help them to develop use of their senses and coordination of their movements.

Children in this section have direct contact with their families to help them in their emotional development and to continue the training at home once the child has returned. Some children, who are staying for a long time in the carehome go to a special training school everyday.

The school section is run according to Swedish ideas but adapted to Arabic circumstances. Miss Sehlén said. The activities centre around sensory, gross and fine motor development exercises, communication skills, reading, writing, arithmetic, expressive art and activities in daily living.

The section is accommodating 40 moderately retarded students who "are led and trained for a better present and future, based on adequate knowledge of daily matters, thus, being able to cope with the basic issues of life", Miss Sehlén explained.

Vocational training

She added: "The Vocational Training Centres (VTC) began work in 1975 and act as a follow-up programme for the school children after the age of 16. VTC offers a promising programme which continues the practical use of the school subjects as well as some orientation programmes like carpentry, embroidery, ceramics, stone working and gardening. Twenty-five students are currently enrolled in the VTC section. The VTC offers students real



Mentally retarded girls operate a loom at the sheltered workshop run by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief

training to be able to continue to the sheltered workshop.

The sheltered workshop was started in 1979 as an experiment in order to give youngsters from the VTC some kind of work and thus they are able to get their own income. Students in this workshop work in clay, embroidery in wool and crochet work along with practical household work. Every thing produced in this workshop is put up for sale. Miss Sehlén said that five former IM students have received employment. One boy is working with the gardeners, three girls are working as assistants within VTC and the sheltered workshop, and one girl is working as a caretaker in the carehome. Some Lego-work from a plastic factory in Amman offers occupation to some of our students, thus, they are earning their own income, she added.

Miss Sehlén also told the Jordan Times that the IM centre feels extremely happy in following up the growth and development of some of the mentally handicapped students that have been attending IM's programme since their early childhood.

Mrs. Agidur said: "Students are very happy in leaving their homes,

working in this sheltered workshop as productive individuals. They have proved to be faithful to their jobs, punctual and trustworthy. We want factory owners to encourage the mentally retarded to mingle with society through offering them simple jobs at their factories."

Mr. Mohammad Abdallah, a supervisor at the IM's sheltered workshop said: "Our future plans are concerned with job openings for the mentally retarded which are aimed to encourage them and provide him with a stable income."

Mrs. Agidur added that for the past two decades, Jordan has witnessed a tremendous development in the field concerning handicapped men, women and children. In the past years, families who had a handicapped child, were ashamed of the child, unaware of their potentials. But the number or relief and rehabilitation centres that have opened in Amman and the rural areas has brought these children out of their closets, to be trained, taught and gradually become independent and acceptable members in the society.

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TV coverage of the PNC was most significant



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

SEVERAL THEORIES were discussed as to the significance of holding the PNC in Amman. No doubt the repercussions were far-reaching as far as the political scene in the area is

concerned. There is another question, though, which I felt was not properly addressed and yet is just as significant. This pertains to the coverage that Jordanian TV awarded the council's proceedings. What significance, if any, did it have on the Jordanian populace?

It is rather of value to note here that all sections of the Jordanian society followed the TV coverage with the utmost of interest. Yes, there were those against the coverage, citing as a reason their reluctance to let the world see Palestinians fighting among themselves. Another absurd reason given against the coverage was that some speakers did not use "proper", classical Arabic, and thus were not good orators. To them, and unfortunately to many others, form still takes precedence over content.

But even those who disagreed still followed the proceedings with interest. There was no uproar, for example, like the one felt during the TV coverage of the summer Olympics, over the length or the airing-time of the coverage. Whenever TV aired parts of the council's sessions, people listened attentively. That, to me, is significant.

It is natural to look for reasons behind this behaviour. Is it true that it is merely the result

of the convening of the PNC for the first time in Amman, where Palestinian-Jordanian family ties are extremely strong? Could it be that Jordanians are suddenly more interested than before in the PNC or the Arab-Israeli conflict in general? And why was not this TV phenomenon equally paralleled by a similar interest in reading of the proceedings in our newspapers for example?

There is, in my opinion, a different reason of far-reaching consequences. TV coverage was a mesmerising experience to Jordanians because it represented a new phenomenon not made possible for them before. For the first time in their lives, Jordanians were given the chance to see a form of parliament in action, and at length for that matter. They heard, not read, speeches defending or attacking certain PLO policies. They saw, not read about, points of order raised, ballots cast, hands raised, accusations made, people hushed. Democracy, perhaps not at its best, was still seen and heard in action. It no longer was a vague concept that was talked about in newspapers. Suddenly, it assumed a tangible reality.

The sessions were definitely not conducted in a true democratic way. Most of the members, including Chairman Arafat himself, seemed lacking in elaborate parliamentary procedures. Still, a lot of what was said on TV during these sessions was something people were not accustomed to see coming out of their tube.

These people present at the Palace of Culture were supposed to be all in harmony. Their critics, after all, did not attend. And yet there were they, criticising others, debating, offering different points of view. A staged play? May be. But even if this is true, it was still extremely healthy to see that members of the Executive Committee were often asked scrutinising questions, disagreed with, and in some cases even hushed. No matter how much of this is acting, it is still significant for the man in the street to feel and see that his leaders don't always enjoy special privileges, that they too are held accountable by a parliament who can check their actions.

These thoughts kept haunting me as I watched the proceedings of the PNC. If the Jordan TV is able to cover the sessions of the PNC, I could not but entertain the selfish thought of why it is not possible to cover our own parliament? It is a known fact, or should be, that all sessions of our parliament are public unless otherwise requested by a majority of the deputies. It is theoretically possible, thus, and constitutionally guaranteed, for anyone interested to attend parliamentary sessions, although few people take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Our newspapers have up till now published almost complete accounts of the sessions, though in a parrotic form and with no analysis or comments whatsoever on sensitive issues discussed. That makes their coverage almost useless but for the better educated.

TV, though, so far has not carried one session complete with picture and especially sound. TV coverage is much more effective than newspapers, because it transmits to the layman a live and vivid account of what goes on among members of the executive and legislative branches.

We are used to constantly seeing government members on TV conducting meetings, holding press conferences, speaking with authority, to the point where we tend to regard anything they say as absolute truth. What we are not used to seeing is these same members being asked questions, scrutinised, judged. This process is not only bringing officials back to earth, but also imprints in us

the notion of always trying to view issues from more than one side. It begins to teach us, in other words, the basic elements of democracy.

It is in this coverage that the PNC was most significant to me. The mere fact that it did convene was an achievement. But I cannot say I was too impressed with its resolutions. For whatever reason, they came out in harmony with all earlier Arab resolutions: A set of intentionally vague statements that do not point to any clear action. Nonetheless, being able to watch the sessions on TV gave me tremendous experience. I lacked before about such meetings, taught me a lot of things I did not know before, and, as a layman, left me a better judge of the people and issues that have a direct impact on my life.

It is thus that I feel I have the right as a citizen to demand that at least some of our parliamentary sessions be aired. I often scare me to think that I am putting my trust in a body of 60 members of whom I have trouble naming 20. I think if one goes through this naming exercise, one would realise how little we know of our parliament or its members. The time to start the acquaintance is now.

Randa Habib's Corner

Truth to be said

FIRST I would like to apologise for not being with you last week due to the fact that political events were so intensive that my work in the agency did not leave me time to write my column.

The most interesting thing during the sessions of the Palestine National Council was the opportunity for every Jordanian to enter into the "intimacy" of the council through television.

The discussions, speeches, voting... were fervently followed by Jordanians, happy to change the routine of their evening. More interesting, however, was to change channels every now and then and to hear the comments on the Syrian T.V. The facts were mutilated in such a way and the information so different that it was hilarious. I personally experienced it when hearing on the Syrian news an article that I had written for my agency. The article was quoted in such a way that it would have been impossible for me to recognise it had they not made it a point to cite my name.

This was simple. All the sentences deemed not to be to their advantage were changed. This makes me think of the way information is used in this part of the world. When the person they are talking about is liked by the regime, the name usually follows all the due titles of respect. On the other hand the "enemy" is deprived from all legal titles and is allowed shameful names.

In conclusion, if you have idle time, look at this same television where you are treated to long interviews of persons who "for security reasons" are not named, yet whose faces you are allowed to see! Who floods us with speeches about the "Arab Nation" and its "authenticity" and those who "deny" it.

"I don't know if you feel like me, but I am not one for people who 'moralise'."

Asians find jobs, but not always happiness in Lebanon

By John Kohut

Reuter

BEIRUT — When she left her 35-dollar-a-month sales job in Sri Lanka to work as a nanny in the Middle East, Kamala had no idea she would be caught in a civil war.

"The agency told me I was going to Damascus, but I landed in Beirut. My contract didn't say where I was going, so what could I do? I had no money to return home," said the 36-year-old widow, who asked to be identified as Kamala, a false name.

Kamala earns \$150 a month for a seven-day week with no vacations. She said she had to leave Colombo last year to earn enough for her two children's schooling. "If I knew I was coming to a war, I would have never left them."

The flight of tens of thousands of Lebanese and Arab workers from Lebanon since war began in 1975 has opened up low-paying jobs for those desperate enough to take them.

A Labour Ministry official said there were an estimated 20,000 Asians in Lebanon, mostly maids, waiters or construction workers.

Before the war, about a quarter of the work force was foreign, mainly Arab, but this fell to about five per cent during the strife, he said.

"It was essential to employ manpower from other countries — workers who would be neutral in the conflict and accept low wages. That's why Asians were chosen," he added.

The sojourns of most of these workers turn into stories of personal tragedy, according to Lebanese officials and the workers themselves.

Kamala and other Asians said most of their compatriots in Lebanon, unable to speak English, French or Arabic, are beaten for not obeying orders they do not understand, and have no one to turn to for help.

She said one Sri Lankan maid recently committed suicide after repeated beatings from her masters. Others had run away.

An Indian construction worker said he knew of several Asian men

forced by sectarian militias to work without pay.

Labour agencies say they are bringing in an increasing number of Asians despite having to pay bribes of up to \$200 for a visa.

Part of the reason for the increase is a Lebanese disdain for manual labour, said Peter, an East Beirut Christian whose company brings in 35 Sri Lankans, Filipinos and Mauritians in a good week, about double the number last year.

"Even poor Lebanese consider working as a maid something shameful," he said. Families say, "We won't let our girls do such work because no one would want to marry them later."

The ministry official said the influx was so great that the government was considering setting up a department to replace private agencies and limiting the import of foreign labour to those with special skills.

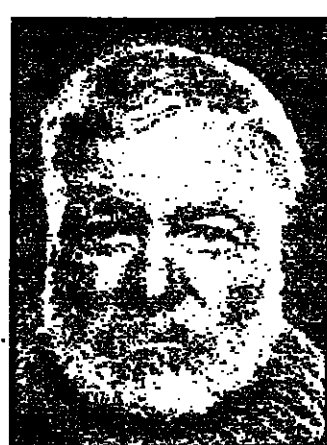
Women, mainly from the Philippines and Sri Lanka, account for about 35 per cent of Lebanon's Asian workers. They are prominent in Beirut, where Asian maids work in almost every block of flats.

A few Asians hold more skilled jobs such as nursing. Michel Al-Khal, assistant administrator at Beirut's Najjar Hospital, said it employs 10 Filipinos as nurses and 12 as houseworkers.

"There is a shortage of nurses here because a lot of highly qualified Lebanese nurses receive scholarships from Saudi Arabian or other companies on condition they work abroad after their studies," he said.

Mr. Khal said many Asian women applied to the hospital after fleeing their menial jobs because "many Lebanese don't treat them like human beings." Some were left to fend for themselves when their employers went abroad to escape the war.

But some workers say they are happy here and want to need to stay for the money. The going monthly wage for a Sri Lankan maid is \$100, but the generally better educated Filipinos start at \$200. Asian men can earn as much as \$300.



Ernest Hemingway

against the repression that followed the takeover.

"It was not an absolute denunciation," Dr. Castro answered, adding: "His country was in conflict with ours."

Dr. Castro said: "He speaks about hard facts. He has the strong will of his characters."

American Hemingway favourite writer in Socialist Cuba

By Dan Sewell

Associated Press

HAVANA — Fidel Castro calls him his favourite author, and he is undoubtedly Cuba's favourite American.

Of all the literary followings Ernest Hemingway continues to have 23 years after his death, the Cubans may be making the strongest effort to establish themselves as his No. 1 fans — and their Caribbean island as his true home.

"Their affection and fervor for Hemingway goes far beyond anything political," said a bemused high-ranking Western diplomat here. He spoke on condition he not be identified.

"He spoke perfect Spanish. He was very understanding and sympathetic to the Cuban people," he said. "He was almost Cuban," explained Felix Milanes, a North American specialist in the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

The rare American visitor to Cuba — the United States permits only journalists, researchers and close relatives of residents to go there — is deluged by the carefully preserved relics of Hemingway's 20-some years in Cuba.

His house outside Havana is a national museum. There is an annual fishing tournament named after him. A yachters' resort is called the Marina Hemingway with a bar called "Papa's." Le Floridita restaurant here bills itself as "Hemingway's favourite restaurant" and displays Hemingway's personal double-stemmed Daiquiri glass.

The nearby Bodeguita del Medio calls itself "Hemingway's favourite bar" and is dotted with photos of the author holding forth there. The bar-restaurant's speciality, the mojito (made with rum, sugar, water and mint), is offered as "Hemingway's favourite drink."

There were separate celebrations this year marking the 85th anniversary of Hemingway's birth, the 45th anniversary of his residence in Cuba, and the 30th anniversary of his Nobel Prize for the Cuba-set novella "The Old Man and the Sea."

During a week-long commemoration of his birthday, the renovated Hemingway Museum was reopened, complete with stuffed heads of animals he shot in Africa, half-finished bottles of liquor, Cole Porter records, and the typewriter he reportedly used to write "The old man and the sea."

"They can't have all of the things of Hemingway that we have here," Jorge Alonso Machado, a government tourism publicist, said disdainfully when told of the Hemingway Museum in Key West, Florida, another of the author's homes.

Don Luis Martinez, owner of Bodeguita del Medio, said Hemingway is loved in Cuba both because of his "machismo" adventurism (experiences ranging from service in three wars to bullfighting in Spain) and his earthy respect for Cuba's common people.

"One day we were having drinks and a writer came by and wanted to interview him," recalled Martinez, sitting in a tiny living room with photos of Hemingway and famous visitors such as the late actor Errol Flynn and slain Chilean leftist leader Salvador Allende. "Hemingway looked up and said: 'You'll have to come back another day because I'm very busy.' Then he ordered another drink."

"But a little later, an old fisherman came by, just to look at him. And Hemingway said: 'This is my friend. Give him whatever he wants. He will sit with me.'"

Martinez, 77, said when Hemingway's Nobel Prize for Literature was announced, Havana's finest casinos and exclusive clubs

called to invite him to celebrate in their locales.

"He said no. Instead, he rented the Hatuey Distillery (beer-producers). That was so all of his friends could come, wearing their old clothes and old shoes."

Last February, President Castro discussed Hemingway in an interview with Cuban author Norberto Fuentes, for his book: "Hemingway in Cuba."

He is my favourite author. I identified instantly with him," Dr. Castro said.

Dr. Castro, an avid snorkeler and fisherman, said he shares Hemingway's love of the sea. He added that Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," drawn from the Spanish civil war, was an inspiration to him and his guerrillas during their three years of mountain fighting before overthrowing dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Hemingway, a strong supporter of Dr. Castro's revolution, spoke out

W.German companies turn increasingly to barter with East

By Raymond Gijzen

Reuter

FRANKFURT — West German companies are turning increasingly to barter trade in order to export to Eastern European and developing countries short of hard currency.

And specialised mediating services are sprouting to cater for small companies lacking the necessary expertise in the field, commercial bank economists and barter specialists say.

West Germany has strong historic ties with Eastern Europe in the banking and trade sectors and has been for many years one of the centres of barter trade — compensation arrangements that involve bartering goods rather than payment in cash.

But the Federal Association of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade (BGA), which compiles an annual list of potential buyers of barter trade goods, now counts some 400 such companies based in West Germany against just 130 last year.

"Many exporting firms have only been forced to accept countertrade (barter) in recent years," Erika Janzon-Schlussegger, BGA's specialist in barter, told Reuters.

Hans-Werner Detz, an economist at Commerzbank, said the international debt crisis, which spread from Poland, Romania and Hungary into Latin America, was one major reason for the growth of barter trade here.

Estimates, published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development last

year put the volume of barter worldwide at 18 per cent of total world trade. Mr. Detz puts it at between 10 and 20 per cent.

"Counter-trade cannot be traced in the statistics because in contracts the value is expressed in money terms," he said. Neither the goods involved nor the nature of payments are stated.

The growing awareness of barter opportunities is underlined by the formation of two specialist companies by the West German metals firm Metallgesellschaft.

Economists say these firms are responding to a need for tailor-made services, as small and medium-sized companies in particular are hampered by the lack of a trading network through which to sell barter goods they may receive but have no use for.

Metallgesellschaft has had a barter arm based in New York for 18 months, but in the past weeks has announced two ventures to expand in the field, setting up joint companies with First Boston Corp of the U.S. and then with France's Dreyfus group.

A company spokesman described the growth in barter as enormous. Economists expect the group to draw on its metals and commodities trading experience and its engineering unit Lurgi.

Companies say members of the Communist trading bloc COMECON now demands higher barter and lower cash contents in trade with the West and sometimes insists that goods given in payment must not be sold by a West German company to "Third World" markets.

Franz Baranczak, a specialist at West Germany's Federal Foreign

Trade Information Bureau (BAI), said this was aimed at protecting markets where COMECON can still command hard-currency payments for their goods.

Small and medium-sized West German companies aiming to sell in Eastern Europe rely on other firms willing to buy and market such goods. Mr. Baranczak estimated the Soviet Union demands up to 20 per cent of import costs to be paid in kind.

It is not unusual for countries such as Romania and Yugoslavia to aim for 100-per-cent payment in kind with West German companies, Mr. Baranczak said.

West German engineering and construction firms are at the centre of barter deals due to their heavy penetration of East bloc and Middle East markets for plant

and machine tools. Engineering association statistics show that West German firms take around 40 per cent of world exports to the East bloc.

Spokesmen for Philipp Holzmann and Bilfinger und Berger (BAU) two of West Germany's leading construction firms, said they had occasionally accepted oil in Middle East deals.

Among developing nations, Iran and Iraq are particularly active in stepping up barter trade with West German firms, according to Ulf-Oswald Zickerick of the BAI.

"Iran wants to expand this form of trade because its balance of trade situation is precarious, and we would see this development even without the Gulf war," he said.

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Syria upsets S.Korea

SINGAPORE (R) — Syria, displaying some sturdy defence and brilliant goalkeeping, upset two-times winners South Korea 1-0 in a crucial Group 'A' match in the Asian Cup soccer finals Friday.

Striker Radwan Al-Cheikh Hassan shocked the South Koreans in the 12th minute when his powerful free kick from 35 metres was misjudged by goalkeeper Jung Ki Dong, who dived too late.

South Korea, winners in 1956 and 1960, matched the Syrians in the 50th minute after substitute Choi Jin Han drove the ball from 20 metres only to hit a post.

They were again unlucky in the final minute when captain Park Chang Sun's 30-metre drive beat

Shakkouhi but bounced back into play after hitting the post again.

The South Koreans, who began the tournament as one of the leading favourites, now have only a slim chance of reaching the last four.

Three-times winners Iran were surprisingly held to a goalless draw by unfancied India in a Group 'B' match.

Iran, triumphant in 1968, 1972 and 1976, controlled the match from midfield but were foiled by India's tight defence and brilliant goalkeeping by Atanu Bhattacharjee.

Iran's best chance came in the 30th minute when striker Abdolali Changiz beat the offside trap

with a 30-metre sprint only to be stopped by Atanu on the edge at the top of the penalty box.

Iranian striker Sharokh Bayani headed the loose ball towards an open goal but it was cleared off the line by defender Subrata Bhattacharjee.

The Iranians, who earlier predicted a three-goal win over India, launched more attacks in the second half but goalkeeper Atanu almost singlehandedly frustrated their efforts, stopping five certain goal attempts.

Iran striker Changiz shook his head in disbelief after his 82nd minute point blank drive was stopped by an acrobatic save by Atanu.

India, earning their first point in the tournament with Friday's draw, had their best chance in the fourth minute when striker Biswajit Bhattacharjee missed an open goal.

Wilander, Curren in Australian final

MELBOURNE (R) — Defending champion and second seed Mats Wilander produced a whirlwind grass-court performance at the Australian Open Tennis Championships Friday to reach a final that may not take place.

The 20-year-old Swede allowed two times champion Johan Kriek of the United States, seeded fourth, just 45 points during the one-hour 6-1, 6-0, 6-2 demolition.

But South African Kevin Curren, who won the other semifinal match, fell heavily on the slippery grass and aggravated an old injury to his left ankle while struggling to subdue unseeded American Ben Testerman. He may not be fit for Sunday's final.

Curren, the ninth seed who disposed of top seed Ivan Lendl on Wednesday, clawed his way to a remarkable 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory but said afterwards he may consider pulling out if the ankle continues to cause trouble.

"I'll have to see, but I've come this far and it may be a once in a lifetime opportunity and I have to take that into account," he said. "There's not much I can do at this stage, it's just a case of icing it and resting it."

If he does play, the ankle will be heavily strapped. "I should actually be playing with it taped every match — it's just too much of a problem."

Sukova joins elite club

Prague teenager Helena Sukova, who won her first major tennis title less than three weeks ago, Thursday joined one of the smallest clubs in the world — players who have beaten the great Martina Navratilova.

Sukova, the ninth seed, shattered the world champion's hopes of winning a record seventh successive grand slam title, the Grand Slam in one calendar year and her 100th tournament when she triumphed 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the Australian Open semifinal.

The defeat, only the sixth for Navratilova in three years, ended a record 74-match winning streak. She was last beaten by another young Czechoslovak, Hana Mandlikova, in the final of a tournament in Oakland, California in January.

Her previous loss, and her only one of 1983, was to fellow-American Kathy Horvath in the fourth round of the French Open.

Chris Evert Lloyd, Thursday's other semifinal victor, last beat her compatriot and arch-rival in the Australian Open final in 1982. Navratilova's third defeat that year.

Lloyd secured her final place with a convincing 6-3, 6-3 win over Australian Wendy Turnbull. Navratilova unleashed a string of forehand winners to stave off

five match points Thursday. But her tall opponent, winner of the Brisbane Classic on Nov. 18, steadfastly refused to be deprived of her place in tennis history.

Sukova, 19, who served consistently well throughout, broke Navratilova's serve twice early in the third set for a 3-0 lead, but the defending champion battled back courageously to 5-5.

Sukova broke again for 6-5, then put together six match points in the 12th game. Navratilova fought off five but on the sixth her return slipped out over the sideline.

"I made a great comeback but I didn't quite finish it off," Navratilova said afterwards. "I wasn't able to get a good rhythm on my volley, so that was probably the biggest problem."

But she was philosophical in defeat. "I still have two legs and two arms. It hurts, but I'm sure I'll get over it."

"I've been under tremendous pressure for a long time... I was thinking even before the tournament that whether I won or lost I was going to have a hard time getting motivated, because if I had won I had done it all and there is no place left for me to go."

"And if I lose then I just start from scratch. It took me a year and a half to get to this point and now I'm around zero again, so either way I was going to have a hard time."

AMA calls for boxing ban

HONOLULU (R) — The American Medical Association (AMA), representing 250,000 physicians, called for a ban on boxing in the United States.

The association's policy-making body, the house of delegates, approved a resolution saying the AMA will encourage the elimination of both amateur and professional boxing because the object of the sport is to inflict injury.

In 1982 the AMA adopted an expert report on brain injuries resulting from boxing and recommended improvement in the administration of the sport, medical standards and ringside medical practice.

Last year the delegates agreed to encourage the elimination of amateur boxing. The resolution said medical societies would be asked to try to persuade state legislatures to ban boxing in their areas and the American public should be educated on the dangerous effects of boxing injuries.

AMA President Joseph Boyle told the delegates doctors would encounter well-financed opposition to any attempt to end boxing.

"That should not deter us," he said. "Ours is the profession that protects the athlete, not the crowd or the sponsor."

Italy ready for Poland

PESCARA, Italy (R) — Italy's centre-forward Paolo Rossi, who scored his first goal of the season last Sunday, has pronounced himself "ready for Poland" when the two countries meet in a repeat of the 1982 World Cup semifinal here Saturday.

The slender Juventus striker, scorer of both Italian goals in the win over the Poles two years ago, opened his season's account in the 2-2 draw with Ascoli.

"That goal sets me free," Rossi said during a training session under the guidance of national team manager Enzo Bearzot. "It stops me from worrying and I'm ready for Poland now."

Bearzot is one of the most patient managers around, but even he must be growing restless at Italy's mediocre results and failure to score goals since they lifted the World Cup in Spain.

Apart from a 5-0 win over Mexico, Italy have scored only seven goals in their seven other games this year against teams including Turkey, the United States and Canada.

President Sandro Pertini, the national team's most fervent supporter, summed up the mood of impatience by threatening to take

back the pipe he presented to Bearzot two years ago.

For the Poles, too, Saturday's game before a capacity 34,000 crowd in the stadium of this Adriatic port will provide a measure of their progress as they seek to qualify for the 1986 finals in Mexico.

Manager Anton Piechotzek brought most of his players to Italy 10 days ago to prepare for the encounter, adding Juventus midfielder Zbigniew Boniek and defender Wladyslaw Zmuda of Cremonese to the squad last Monday.

The Poles warmed up by beating Italian league side Arezzo 3-1 on Wednesday. Bearzot watched and commented: "They have some different faces but the tactics are the same."

Palasz and Okonski are twin strikers in front of three midfielders including Boniek, who in his national colours has a deeper and more important role than when he plays for Juventus alongside the more glamorous Michel Platini.

The Italians will again try Antonio Di Gennaro of league leaders Verona beside World Cup players Bruno Conti and Sandro Altobelli, possibly giving Lazio striker Bruno Giordano a chance in the second half.

France, E.Germany in World Cup qualifier

PARIS (R) — France, keen to maintain the momentum of their European Championship triumph in June, will be hoping their rejuvenated midfield will spark a third World Cup qualifying victory in Saturday's match here with East Germany.

France are able to field the magic midfield quartet of Michel Platini, Alain Giresse, Jean Tigana and Luis Fernandez for the first time since they won the Eur-

opean trophy by beating Spain 2-0 in the final.


Injuries to Tigana and Giresse earlier this season did not stop the side's winning streak. They trounced Luxembourg 4-0 in their first group four qualifier and gained a hard-earned 1-0 win over Bulgaria in Paris two weeks ago.

But the side appeared to have lost some of its French esprit and verve. A fully-manned midfield engine-room should spread con-

fidence through the side and also reduce the goal-scoring pressure on European Footballer of the Year Platini.

East Germany are in danger of losing touch with group leaders France, and Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, after a disappointing start to their World Cup campaign.

They suffered a major setback when they crashed 2-3 at home to Yugoslavia but recovered with a 5-0 win in Luxembourg.



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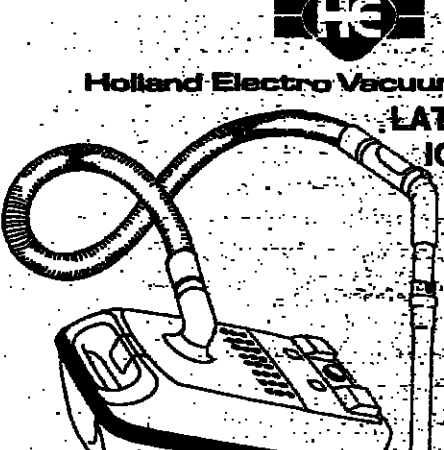
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Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 IDIANA JONES (Colour) Tel: 677420 Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 AL TAKHSHIBEH (WOODEN SHED) (Colour) (Arabic) Performances: 12:3 - 5:30-8	Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 25155 THE WOMAN IN RED (Colour) (Colour) 3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.	Cinema ZAHARAN Tel: 23171 LOOT (Colour) Performances: 12:3 - 5:30-8	Cinema OPERA JAWS-3 (Colour) Abdal - behind ALIA offices	Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 NISHAN RETURN OF THE LEOPARD Performances: 12:3-7	Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198 RAAJI TILAK (Colour) (Indian) Performances: 12:3-5:30-8	THE EVIL THAT MEN DO DINESH KOSHI From 8:30/9:00/9:30 Tel. 2666-2666
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EC, 64 states will sign new Lome aid, trade pact today

BRUSSELS (R) — In the shadow of Africa's disastrous drought, the European Community (EC) and 64 developing countries meet in Togo on Saturday to sign a new Lome trade and aid pact which reflects compromise over aid levels and terms.

European Commission President Gaston Thorn will sign an agreement granting around 8.5 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$6.2 billion) to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

The fund for long-term development is allocated under the "Lome Convention" and is the third in a series of five-year accords. It is separate from emergency food aid for African drought areas, for which community leaders approved an extra \$330 million last week's Dublin summit.

Almost 10 years after the signing of the first pact between the then six European and 46 ACP states, which was hailed as a bold new development in North-South relations, diplomats say much of the convention has failed to live up to expectations.

ACP countries say "Lome 3"

does not even maintain the real value of "Lome 2". But their chief negotiator Mr. Rabbe Namaliu of New Guinea accepted it reluctantly on Nov. 23 as "the best compromise".

"Lome 3", which took over a year to negotiate, will provide just \$4 per head for each of the 370 million ACP citizens, a drop in the ocean against the mounting economic problems of many states.

Mr. Namaliu said the group was disappointed by terms of access for its fish, agricultural and industrial products to the community. But he added that at least some of their worst fears had not been realised.

Diplomats said ACP states had been worried by moves in the name of greater efficiency to increase control over the way the aid was spent, and were sensitive over community attempts to write human rights clauses into the pact.

Both issues were resolved by compromises which the developing countries said did not impinge on their sovereignty.

Positive features included a commitment to look into the problem of desert growth, some access for ACP states to EC agr-

icultural surpluses and moves to encourage Western investment in Third World countries, he said.

Diplomats said offers of more generous terms on both trade and aid had been thwarted by a North-South split within the EC itself.

West Germany and Britain led northern resistance to increasing the aid package, arguing for greater trade concessions. South European states, keen to avoid competition for their own farmers, wanted to offer more aid.

At one of the more acrimonious intra-EC sessions, French Overseas Development Minister Christian Nucci said that spending more on long-term Lome aid would avert the need for massive short term emergency efforts.

According to commission figures, around \$3.55 billion is in the form of grants for development projects, with \$440 million each for special loans and risk capital.

A further \$975 million will go on funds to compensate for agricultural and mineral price fluctuations.

The remaining \$800 million is in European investment bank loans.

IEA revises oil consumption forecast

PARIS (R) — Oil consumption in the non-communist world appears to be running at about 47.4 million barrels per day (b/d) in the last three months of 1984, well above the rate estimated a month ago, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its latest report.

The agency's December oil market report raised world consumption estimates for the fourth quarter of 1984 from the 46.7 million estimated in November.

The figure for third quarter non-communist world consumption was also raised to 45.1 million b/d from 44.4 million.

The IEA said non-communist

world oil supplies appeared to be running at about 46 million b/d during the current quarter, assuming December output continued at November levels.

October output was put at 45.9 million b/d and November at 46.1 million.

The 1.4 million b/d shortfall would be covered partly by a red-

uction of at least 800,000 b/d in stocks held in industrial countries belonging to the 24-member Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The IEA said the remaining difference might be covered by larger stock falls or might reflect inaccuracies in the provisional supply and demand estimates.

It said OECD countries reported a 400,000 b/d rise in stocks in the third quarter, well above the preliminary estimates a month ago which indicated a 200,000 b/d fall.

If the latest third and fourth quarter estimates are correct, stocks in the OECD countries at

the start of next year will total 427 million tonnes, or around 90 days of consumption.

On the demand side fourth quarter consumption in the OECD countries is estimated to rise to 35.9 million b/d from 33.6 million in the third quarter, while non-OECD consumption is seen at an unchanged 11.5 million, the report said.

For the whole of next year the IEA put total non-communist world demand at 46.8 million b/d against this year's 46.3 million.

Preliminary estimates for the first three quarters of 1985 show a rise in OECD consumption to 37.0 million b/d in the first quar-

ter, followed by a decline to 34.0 million and 33.9 million in the next two quarters.

The report put non-OECD consumption at 11.6 million b/d throughout next year.

Crude oil production by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is estimated at 16.7 million b/d in the current quarter, unchanged from the third quarter, the IEA said.

Adding an estimated 1.3 million b/d of natural gas liquids, total OPEC supplies would be about 18 million b/d, in line with the third quarter.

OPEC may face pressure from Britain

LONDON (Agencies) — British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) Chief Executive Ian Gorskirk said Thursday the state-owned firm would have to change its crude oil pricing formula to reflect free or "spot" market prices and reduce trading losses.

Analysts said that any early change would mean lower North Sea oil contract prices and possible further pressure on OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

A BNOC spokesman said there was no specific target date for such a change nor had a new pricing formula been decided.

Weak spot market prices for light quality crude oil since the middle of this year have forced BNOC to sell larger quantities of crude for less than its official contract price.

Mr. Gorskirk, speaking to a hearing of the British House of Commons energy committee, said there was a widespread view throughout the market, which he shared, that spot prices would remain below OPEC's posted prices for the next few years.

BNOC is obliged by law to buy 51 per cent of Britain's North Sea oil output — currently totalling 1.3 million b/d — at its official

price. But 500,000 b/d goes straight back to British producers and refiners.

Up until the end of last year BNOC was selling the remaining 800,000 b/d on a term contract basis. As a result of a weak market conditions BNOC has been forced to sell some 400,000 b/d or half its available oil on the spot crude oil market.

Mr. Gorskirk told the committee he did not think that this level of spot market sales would diminish. Any losses BNOC incurs to cover the difference between the official buying price and sales at a lower price on the spot market are met

eventually from the British treasury.

The hearing was called by the parliamentary committee investigating a government plan to give BNOC an extra £45 million (\$54 million) to help meet such losses.

Monthly price setting on a more flexible market-related formula, rather than quarterly contract prices, is among the options being considered by the state-owned firm, BNOC officials said after the hearing.

Meanwhile, oil production from the British sector of the North Sea rose by 5.2 per cent to 31 million tonnes in the period August-October this year, compared to 1983, according to official statistics.

Oil consumption increased by 28.6 per cent to 23.1 million tonnes compared to the corresponding period a year ago, reflecting an increased substitution of heavy oil for coal in power stations.

On the other hand, Thursday in Oslo traders said slight strengthening of spot prices will reduce the need for a Statoil price cut.

Congressional leaders pressure Reagan to cut defence spending

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Thursday came under new pressure from congressional leaders of his own Republican Party to cut defence spending in addition to slashing domestic programmes by \$34 billion in 1986.

The leaders, while supporting Mr. Reagan's efforts to reduce large government deficits, appeared shocked by some of the proposed cuts detailed by Mr. Reagan at a White House meeting.

"My Adam's apple regurgitated and I had to swallow again," House Republican leader Mr. Robert Michel of Illinois told reporters.

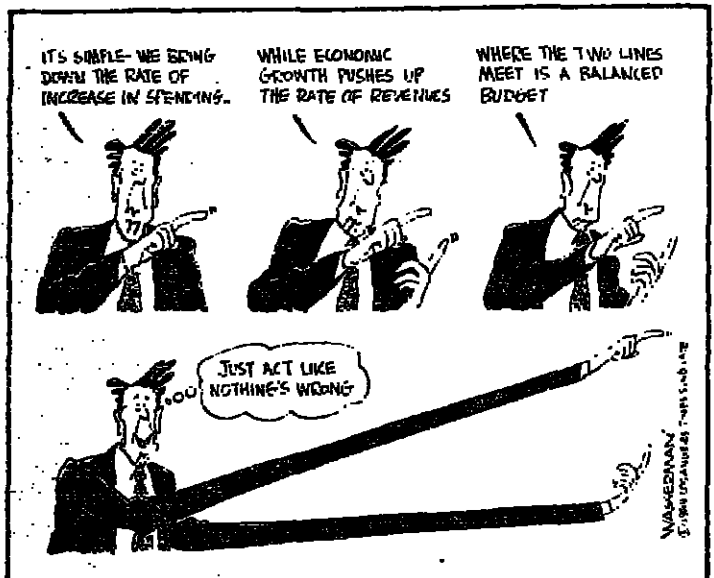
The \$34 billion in cuts, all in non-defence spending, leave Mr. Reagan \$8 billion short of his \$42 billion goal for spending cuts in the 1986 financial year beginning on Oct. 1.

Budget Director David Stockman has proposed an \$8 billion cut in 1986 arms spending. Final decisions on arms spending await the return of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger from an overseas trip.

Mr. Weinberger is strongly resisting any reductions in his budget. Mr. Stockman is also urging Mr. Reagan to trim the Pentagon budget by \$20 billion in 1987 and \$30 billion in 1988. That would still allow defence spending to rise more than \$20 billion annually.

Mr. Michel made it clear that defence spending would have to be cut for there to be any chance in Congress for domestic cuts of the magnitude proposed by Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Michel said that last year Congress forced Mr. Reagan to hold the rise in military spending to about five per cent, less than



half the amount originally proposed.

"Congress has demonstrated, within the last year in particular, that we have our own ideas and feelings," he said.

The package drawn up by Mr. Reagan, subject to congressional approval, includes a five per cent pay cut for government workers, reductions in farm subsidies, a one-year freeze in increases in government pensions except under the social security system, and the elimination of some programmes.

Mr. Reagan won reelection by a landslide a month ago after campaigning against any tax increases. His opponent, Democrat Walter Mondale, said tax rises would be needed to reduce the deficit but the president is still resisting that approach.

Mr. Reagan seeks to hold ove-

rrall spending on government programmes in 1986 to the 1985 level of \$830 billion. His plan would bar increases in such programmes as food assistance for "poor Americans and aid to the aged, the needy, the blind and disabled."

Interest costs, which cannot be reduced except by cutting the deficit or lowering interest rates, will total about \$154 billion in 1986, driving total federal spending to \$988 billion.

White House spokesman Mr. Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan would be willing to have his annual \$200,000 salary cut by 10 per cent, twice as much as he has proposed in his cut package.

But, Mr. Robert Dole, a Kansas Republican and newly elected Senate majority leader, said the plan faces a tough fight in Congress, where Republicans control the Senate.

Turkish devaluation of lira to continue

ANKARA (R) — The progressive devaluation of the Turkish lira will continue in line with domestic inflation. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal told Reuters in an interview.

He said his government planned to cut inflation next year to 25 per cent from around 50 per cent now. "Inflation will be lower next year so the depreciation will be less," he said.

"If we say 25 per cent and inflation in the United States or Germany is four per cent, the difference is reflected in our exchange rate."

Mr. Ozal, a believer in free market and monetarist policies, has made liberalisation of the economy one of his main goals.

He said he did not believe that a \$500 million credit Turkey is seeking for its balance of payments deficit next year would be the start of a slippery slope for the economy.

"The Turkish economy is going up. We always calculated what is our balance of payments," Mr. Ozal said.

He said Turkey would not need a new standby agreement with the International Monetary Fund after the present one, for \$225 million Special Drawing Rights, expires next April.

But he said it would still seek advice from and consultation with the fund on its economic planning.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed firm on technical buying at the end of the account, helped by the steadier trend on Wall Street, dealers said. The FTSE 100 index at 1530 was up 9.2 at 1185.0.

British Telecom rose 2p to 90, Beecham added 9p to 380. BTR gained 14p to 547 and Glaxo firmed 18p to 1058. Hanson Trust moved 7p higher at 286 after 290 following Thursday's figures.

Government bonds closed up to 5/16 point lower, reflecting the weak opening of the U.S. bond markets, having maintained their overnight levels for much of the session.

Gold shares and North Americans were mixed. Insurances recouped early losses as it became clear that compensation payments against Union Carbide to Indian gas leak disaster victims had been widely laid off on the world reinsurance market, dealers said. Royal Insurance edged 1p higher at 521 after 510.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2040/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3196/99	Canadian dollars
	3.0700/20	West German marks
	3.4660/80	Dutch guilders
	2.5330/60	Swiss francs
	61.82/87	Belgian francs
	9.4025/75	French francs
	1896.5/8.5	Italian lire
	246.90/7.05	Japanese yen
	8.7700/7850	Swedish crowns
	8.8925/9025	Norwegian crowns
	11.0250/0400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	329.90/330.40	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Try to get an early start this morning for today's full moon brings into sharp focus whatever ability to really get things accomplished in a variety of ways you have.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to contact those persons who can best help you to solve some problematical affairs that are important.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into monetary matters for which you have had little time of late. Make collections and then pay pressing bills.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Concentrate on your own desires and wishes and state them to whomever can be of assistance to you in gaining them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good day to privately go after the information you need on several matters. Seek out every available source.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are able to gain your personal wishes today but only if you put out the effort to do so. Socialize this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan early what you want to do in public circles and then carry through in a positive way. Avoid taking risks today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to contact one at a distance by phone or taking a trip for some good purpose. Listen to others' ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact the wisest business person you know and learn how to get your practical affairs in better order.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A partner may be upset so postpone a meeting and handle more important affairs. Seek out a cooperative co-worker.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you schedule your work wisely, you can handle it very efficiently today. Fine time for health treatments, also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get into some kind of recreation that will relieve you of anxiety and get good friends to go along with you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Fine day to do whatever will improve conditions at home and to complete whatever has been left undone.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will easily take care of any strange or unusual situations that may come up and should have courses in modern technology and can become quite successful in any such field of endeavor. There is much ingenuity here and could become quite an inventor.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Grant
- Wife man
- Helps in wrong doing
- Racehorse shape
- Edict
- Other genus
- TV cop series
- Huazh
- Writer's item
- Gems
- Sandy matter
- Cracking fig
- Start of a Gilbert and Sullivan quote
- Put freight aboard
- Conjunction
- Eastern org. letters
- Make reparation
- Sault — Marie
- Basketry fiber
- Make a mistake
- Champagne word
- Barbary ape
- Other half of 25A
- Mild cheese
- Baroque hall platform
- Elvis's land
- Angler's needs
- Handle clumsily
- TV crime
- Subject of a Kluge poem
- Lugs
- Stairings or Ludwig
- de fole gras
- "Taratou" is on
- Church section
- Wonderful one-horse conformance
- DOWN
- Silver salmon
- Malevolent
- Roy Rogers' wife
- Building wing
- System of measurement
- Charge with gas
- 7 Zane or Jane
- Cup or glass
- Record sets
- Small corn
- Case for small items
- Form of a Kluge poem
- Walk with long steps
- Particular course
- Narrow valley
- Of sound mind
- Wings
- Father comb. form
- Scents
- Correspond
- Ethics
- Eagle's grasps
- Network of nerve
- Sawing line
- Mischiefous
- Slate
- Pursue with stealth
- Not so far
- Black Sea port
- Handsome youth
- your own canoe
- Ratio words
- 50 Ansel
- 51 Appraisals
- 52 Incline
- 53 Egyptian god
- 54 Official deeds
- 55 Milk part
- 56 Voice vote
- 58 Release

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BAIRD SLOTH PEACH
 ARIAS CHAPLIN BAIN
 HANNO ANTIHYPHESIS
 GRITKILE ATOMES
 BENTH EDEMA
 AUNT TIED MATHAM
 RUP THORP BERRIA
 LILIAS NUTTER STAY
 LAZIE SHARED TIE
 STYBIES COMBO SYR
 RUPSTY GROPE
 SALMON PARAPET
 ANYUBIOTIC STAY
 THORN LOSTIE TIRE
 TWILL STYBIAH ACRIE

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"He got a little excited during a football game and ate all his empty beer cans."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORFUL
 LEHEW
 TIPEOA
 CLAMBE

Can't do a thing with it!

WHAT SHE DID EVERY TIME SHE WASHED HER HAIR.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: O O O O H E R O O O

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FORCE HUMID TOWARD NEPHEW
 Answer: What a sudden cloudburst is — A DOWNPOUR

Peanuts

THIS IS MY REPORT ON WHALES... WHALES LIVE IN THE OCEAN, WHICH IS A GOOD THING...

IF THEY LIVED WHERE YOU LIVE, YOUR DAD WOULDN'T HAVE ROOM TO PARK HIS CAR...

HAHAHAHA!

I FEEL LIKE A WARM-UP ACT

Mutt 'n' Jeff

HEY, YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT LADDER?

I'M GETTING READY TO ELOPE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER

ELOPE?

OH, I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR, SIR!

FAVOR?

YES! YOU SEE IF WE ELOPE IT COSTS YOU NOTHING, BUT IF WE HAVE A WEDDING IT'S PAPA WHO PAYS

DON'T FALL!

Andy Capp

BANG BANG BANG

I GOT SOME GREAT NEW PILLS FROM THE DOCTOR — THEY MAKE YOU ONLY DREAD ONE DAY AT A TIME

Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels kill 17 people in bus attack

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist Tamil guerrillas killed 17 people when they set fire to a bus in north west Sri Lanka on Wednesday, a local government official said Friday.

The guerrillas ordered Tamil passengers off the bus near the town of Cheddikulam, then set it on fire, killing 16 Sinhalese and the Muslim conductor who were still inside, he told Reuters.

The official said he was told of the attack by the North Central Transport Board. A government spokesman in Colombo said he had no evidence of an attack.

The report came as the government for the first time publicly ordered troops and police to shoot trouble makers on sight to prevent a backlash against Tamils by majority Sinhalese in the south.

Government spokesman Wickrama Weerasooria told reporters Friday 269 people had died since

the current wave of guerrilla violence began on Nov. 19.

He said the figure did not include casualties from an attack near the north western town of Mannar on Tuesday. He did not elaborate.

Authoritative sources said troops killed 83 civilians near Mannar in revenge for a guerrilla attack on an army convoy which killed one soldier and injured six others.

Mr. Weerasooria said guerrillas raided two fishing villages near Kumulamulai in the north east Thursday killing a Sinhalese woman and seriously injuring a man. The rebels shot dead about 100 Sinhalese fishermen and farmers in the region in four raids last

week. The guerrillas are campaigning for a separate state in the north for the island's 2.6 million Tamils. The government says they aim to drive Sinhalese out of the north and provoke an anti-Tamil backlash in the south.

About 400 people, mainly Tamils, died in violence which erupted in July 1983 after guerrillas killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers.

A government spokesman said the authorities clamped curfew on Colombo and issued the shoot-on-sight orders Thursday night to head off possible violence following the kidnapping of nine Sinhalese in northern Jaffna district by separatists who attacked a train on Tuesday.

The hostages, a journalist and eight cement factory workers, are believed to be from the Colombo area.

Official sources said the gov-

ernment had heard no word since National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali challenged the kidnappers to prove the hostages were alive.

A group called the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army (TELA) demanded the release of three colleagues held by security forces and a \$400,000 ransom in exchange for the hostages.

Mr. Weerasooria said security forces had detained 56 suspected guerrillas in raids Thursday in Jaffna.

The navy had also arrested four Indian nationals aboard an Indian trawler in Sri Lankan waters. Mr. Weerasooria said the four would be brought to Colombo and sent back to India.

The government has declared much of the northern coastline a prohibited zone to prevent rebels landing men and arms from southern India.



Mass cremations were underway in Bhopal for the victims of a poisonous gas leak that killed more than 1,600 people. Workmen with gas masks sometimes

piled more than 25 bodies together in a single pyre to conserve firewood and fuel (AP wirephoto)

India releases Union Carbide chief

BHOPAL, India (R) — Warren Anderson, chairman of the U.S. Union Carbide Corporation, was arrested Friday after arriving in Bhopal to investigate the poison gas disaster in which 2,000 people died but was later released, authoritative sources said.

Mr. Anderson and two executives of the company's Indian subsidiary were detained after flying into Bhopal. But the sources said Mr. Anderson was later freed from house arrest.

A U.S. embassy spokesman told Reuters he could not comment on the report.

There were no immediate details whether charges against Mr. Anderson had been dropped or whether he had been granted bail.

The sources said the U.S. embassy in Delhi had been in contact with the Indian government over the arrest of Mr. Anderson and the two Indian executives but did not elaborate.

Mr. Anderson went to Bhopal to take personal charge of Union Carbide's investigation into Monday's disaster.

A statement from the company's headquarters in Danbury, Connecticut, earlier Friday said Mr. Anderson had been given assurances of safe passage before flying to the central Indian city.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the three men were detained in the Madhya Pradesh state capital on charges including conspiracy, negligence and corporate liability.

Conviction on the charges carried sentences ranging from fines to life imprisonment, PTI said.

"We are convinced on the basis of facts already available that each of them has criminal liability for events that led to this grim tragedy," Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh said in a statement read to reporters.

A company spokesman told Reuters in Bombay that Keshub Mahindra, the chairman of the Indian subsidiary, and its managing director, V.P. Gokhale, were arrested with Mr. Anderson shortly after they arrived at Bhopal Airport.

The three were under arrest at the company's guesthouse in Bhopal, the spokesman said.

The Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide owns the Bhopal pesticides factory where the gas leak occurred last Monday.

PTI said the executives were detained under seven sections of the Indian penal code. It said some of the charges did not provide for bail.

The charges included criminal conspiracy, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by negligence, mischief, mischief in the killing of livestock, making the atmosphere noxious to health and negligent conduct in respect of poisonous substances, PTI said.

Hari Swaroop, an Indian supreme court lawyer and former judge, told Reuters: "It is probably the first time in India that a senior multinational executive has been arrested on a negligence charge."

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Delhi said he had no comment on the arrests.

PTI quoted an unnamed official from the U.S. consulate in Bombay, who was in Bhopal looking after the Union Carbide team, as saying: "We have never seen anything like this. We had come here to help and this is what happened."

Bhopal Medical Services Director M.N. Nagu said some of 3,700 medical staff in the city had started inoculating survivors to head off a possible cholera epidemic.

He said the slaughter of livestock had been banned and is cattle killed by the gas were being removed from the streets.

"My first task is to see that no one dies of lung disorders and the second is to prevent victims from going blind from ulcers in their eyes," he said.

Madhya Pradesh Health Minister Nath Chauria said: "This is a chemical war in which 2,000 people may have died."

Some areas of the city were returning to normal with many shops reopening for the first time since the gas leak.

The Madhya Pradesh government filed a case with local police Thursday charging the owners of the plant with criminal negligence.

Five Indian plant supervisors and managers arrested on Tuesday were still under house arrest, PTI reported.

Police refused U.S. Union Carbide technicians entry to the factory Thursday when they tried to start a probe into the cause of the methyl isocyanate gas leak from a storage tank.

Vietnamese reportedly using 'Flying Tanks' against Kampuchean rebels

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam is using Soviet-made Mi-24 helicopter gunships, the "Flying Tanks" Soviet forces employ against Afghan rebels, against Kampuchean guerrillas, a senior Thai security official said Friday.

National Security Council Chief Prasong Soonsiri said Vietnamese forces recently deployed six Hind A-model gunships against guerrillas active around the Tonle Sap Great Lake.

Western military officials could not immediately confirm the presence in Kampuchea of the "Flying Tanks," which carry large calibre machineguns and troops as well as big loads of rockets and bombs under wing pylons.

A Western diplomat described the Hind as a formidable weapons platform and said it was "the single biggest problem Afghan insurgents have had to face."

Kampuchea's 50,000 to 60,000 insurgents have small Bore anti-aircraft weapons, but lack large calibre guns or portable heat-seeking missiles normally needed to shoot down the titanium reinforced craft, the diplomat said.

But he added that Kampuchean guerrillas typically operated under better cover than Afghan insurgents who faced large number of advanced Soviet aircraft.

Hanoi this year began using converted Mi-8 utility helicopters and AN-26 transport planes as gunships and bombers against insurgents in the Tonle Sap region, Western diplomats said.

Kampuchean guerrillas said Friday they had retaken a key rebel base near the Thai border from Vietnamese troops. There was no independent confirmation of the claim.

A Khmer People's National

Liberation Front (KPNLF) radio broadcast said about 20 Vietnamese were killed or wounded in the fighting at Nong Chan Camp on Wednesday. One rebel was killed and four were wounded, it said.

Vietnamese troops seized parts of the camp, once a sprawling KPNLF settlement, on Nov. 18.

Kampuchean guerrillas are fighting Vietnamese troops based in Kampuchea since December 1978. Western diplomats estimate Hanoi maintains between 160,000 and 180,000 troops in Kampuchea.

There was no independent confirmation of the KPNLF claim.

Thai military sources said fighting continued in the area and army officials in Bangkok said no official information on the recapture of the camp had been received.

Troops called into Indian state after violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were ordered into the capital of India's sensitive Jammu and Kashmir state Friday as the nation was hit by new election violence with the murder of a second parliamentary candidate.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Jammu, winter capital of the state, was tense after a stabbing incident on Wednesday set off communal clashes.

The fundamentalist Hindu Shiv Sena Organisation said the victim was one of its members. It said his killer was a relative of one of the Sikhs who hijacked an Indian Air Lines plane to Lahore last July. Jammu has a mixed population of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims and has been the scene of communal fighting in the past.

The city, winter capital of the predominantly Muslim state bordering Pakistan, was put under curfew for several hours Thursday after a number of vehicles were burned.

PTI said troops were ordered into the city Friday morning after fresh outbreaks of violence.

Italy threatens to recall contingent from Malta

ROME (R) — Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini has said a contingent of Italian military advisers in Malta would be called home if what he said were Maltese provocations against it did not stop immediately.

"If Maltese provocations toward the Italian military contingent do not cease immediately the Defence Ministry will see to its return in Italy quickly," Mr. Spadolini told a Senate commission.

The Defence Ministry said that since Dec. 4 the Maltese government had impeded the normal activity of the contingent.

Two days ago Malta approved a friendship and cooperation treaty with Libya and Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff announced that a 1980 neutrality treaty with Italy had ended.

Mr. Mintoff told the Maltese Parliament the neutrality agreement had ended because its protocols on financial and economic assistance had run their course. But Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici said relations with Italy were "not as good as Malta wanted them to be."

The Italian military contingent was sent to Malta after the ratification of the treaty in which Italy pledged to intervene militarily if Malta was attacked.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi's office said in a statement Thursday that it was "improper" to link the expiration of the economic protocols to the political agreement of neutrality, which he said had no time limit.

The statement said the political commitment of the 1980 agreements had a "permanent character." It added that Rome had told the Maltese government it was willing to renegotiate new economic protocols.

Mr. Spadolini told the Senate commission that the Italian contingent in Malta had scrupulously adhered to the accords to guarantee Maltese neutrality.

Aide sees slim chance of U.S. staying in UNESCO

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior Reagan administration official has said there was little chance the United States would remain in UNESCO after Dec. 31 despite intensified congressional warnings that the threat to pull out was a mistake.

Assistant Secretary of State Gregory Newell told reporters that while a formal decision on U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) had not been made by President Reagan, "the chance of remaining are very very slim."

Although UNESCO had made some progress toward reforms demanded by the United States, it would have to take even more drastic steps in the next few days to cause the administration to change its mind, he said.

Mr. Newell monitors international organisations and is the primary administration advocate of withdrawal from UNESCO.

The United States, which finances 25 per cent of UNESCO's budget, announced a year ago that it would withdraw this December because the organisation was badly managed and increasingly promoted an agenda the U.S. could not support.

Since then, other UNESCO members have pressed for change and Britain announced it would quit next year if reforms did not take place.

U.K. House of Commons approves Hong Kong deal

LONDON (R) — The British Parliament has stamped its seal of approval on the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997 under a draft deal ensuring Britain's last major colony maintains its Capitalist way of life for at least 50 years.

The House of Commons (lower house) approved the deal with Peking without a formal vote at the end of a wide-ranging but sparsely attended debate lasting more than six hours.

Asked whether the government should sign the agreement the 50 or so lawmakers present — the House has 650 members — chorused "aye". There was no dissent.

The deal ensures that Hong Kong's 5.3 million people will retain their freedoms and Capitalist way of life for at least 50 years after 1997, when a lease on most of the colony expires.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will sign the agreement in Peking on Dec. 19.

Britain and China initiated the agreement last September after two years of sometimes difficult talks.

It will be the first time that Britain, in dismantling an empire that once stretched round the world, has agreed to hand a colony to a foreign power rather than grant independence.

China has said it will make

Riot erupts during free rock concert

AUCKLAND (R) — Cars were burned and shops smashed and looted as hundreds of youths fought with police in riot gear in Auckland city centre Friday night after a riot erupted at a free rock concert. Police cars were overturned and the city's information centre was demolished as terrified shoppers hid in foyers and alleys.

Witnesses said the trouble began when a group of youths began to pitch bottles and rocks into a packed crowd at the concert in a central square. "A group started firing bottles down. The police tried to stop them. Then it all started," said Madonna May, 16.

Screaming youths, some no older than 16, threw rocks and cans at the police who, vastly outnumbered, were forced to retreat.

Nigerian sentenced to death for possessing heroin

LAGOS (R) — A Lagos court has sentenced a man to death by firing squad for possessing 250 grammes of heroin in the first conviction under a military decree passed last July stipulating capital punishment for various offences.

Nard Ogedegbe, 29, who called himself a navigator, was arrested in July at Lagos Airport on his way from India. Police said customs men found the drug nearly wrapped in cellophane and hidden in five packets of detergent.

Scientists set a fly to catch a fly

SYDNEY (R) — Five million mutant flies are to be set free in Australia in an experiment to control the sheep blowfly, a disease which costs Australian graziers more than \$130 million a year.

A government scientist and scientists hoped that blowflies which mate only once would not with the genetically altered variety and their offspring would therefore die. The larvae of sheep blowflies infect the skin and cause living sheep "causing pain and sometimes even death."

Kennedy children arrested during demonstration

WASHINGTON (R) — Douglas and Rory Kennedy, two teenage children of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, were arrested outside the South African embassy here, during an anti-apartheid demonstration, police said. They were taken away from the embassy handcuffed in a police car as college students joined black activists and trade unionists who have marched daily outside the embassy for the last two weeks.

Protesters, many of them black congressmen, who have been arrested at earlier demonstrations, have been released without being charged. Some have complained about not being given their day in court, which they saw as an additional forum for their message.

British academy gets new president

LONDON (R) — Painter Roger de Grey was Thursday night elected president of Britain's Royal Academy of Arts, succeeding the architect Sir Hugh Casson, who has retired after eight years in the post.

De Grey, 66, whose works have been bought by Queen Elizabeth and by galleries worldwide, is the academy's 21st president since its foundation in 1768. He was elected by its 60 members, leading figures from every branch of the fine arts. The academy stages exhibitions and promotes the arts in Britain.

Pakistani actress jailed in Turkey for drug smuggling

ISTANBUL (R) — Pakistani film star Aasma Ahmad and two other Pakistanis were jailed for life for smuggling heroin into Turkey, judicial sources said Thursday.

Ms. Ahmad was caught with over a kilo of heroin at Istanbul's Yesilkoy Airport last year with Mirza Mahmood, Alesha Baig and Mirza Sami Baig, both Pakistanis.

The civilian court in Istanbul, after hearing the case for more than a year, on Wednesday at first handed down death sentences on the three as the prosecutor had demanded. But the sentences were immediately commuted to life imprisonment by the court due to the good behaviour of the three during the hearings, the sources said.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE KING IS DEAD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ K 9 8 4 3 2
♣ 4

EAST
♠ K 3
♥ 10 7
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ A Q J 10 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 7 6 2
♥ A J 5
♦ Void
♣ K 6 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

At various times during the play of a hand, one opponent is more of a threat than the other. You must do whatever you can to neutralize the danger. Consider this hand.

North did not have quite enough to act voluntarily over West's overcall. However, when South could bid a second time despite the fact that both opponents were bidding, North felt that his smattering of high cards and distributional assets merited one raise, and South went on to game.

West led the 10 of hearts, taken by declarer's jack. Since there was no way to avoid club losers other than by ruffing them in dummy, declarer led a low club from hand at the second trick. East overtook his partner's seven and, in an attempt to cut down dummy's ruffing power, shifted to a trump. Declarer correctly rose with the ace, but since he could now ruff only two clubs on the board, he ended up losing two clubs, a heart and a trump.

While the defenders did well, declarer had only himself to blame for his defeat. Obviously, he cannot allow East to gain the lead, because the trump shift through his holding would be deadly. In an attempt to prevent that, at trick two declarer should have led the king of clubs from hand!

West can win the ace, but he cannot shift to a trump without sacrificing his trump trick. No matter how the defenders proceed, declarer will have the time and the entries to ruff three clubs in dummy. Even if East can overruff the fourth club, he will be doing it with his side's natural trump winner, and declarer will lose no more than one trump, one heart and one club.

Mitterrand begins African tour today

PARIS (R) — France's credibility as a traditional friend of Africa will be at stake when President Francois Mitterrand leaves on Saturday to visit Zaire, Burundi and the Central African Republic.

The main purpose of Mr. Mitterrand's six-day African tour is to attend an annual Franco-African summit in Bujumbura.

With his handling of foreign affairs under increasing criticism and his popular standing at its lowest ebb since he took office in 1981, Mr. Mitterrand will find the results of his African trip coming under close scrutiny at home.

Until recently the French president's foreign policy won a fair degree of support, even from opposition politicians hostile to his domestic course.

But a sudden series of diplomatic setbacks and poorly explained initiatives have put Mr. Mitterrand on the defensive during what one Paris news magazine dubbed the president's "black November."

Mr. Mitterrand has been criticised for failing to head off unrest in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, and for a meeting in Damascus with Syrian Pres-

ident Hafez Al Assad. But his credibility has been undermined above all by his handling of the withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from Chad, which the leading Paris daily Le Monde described as his worst-ever foreign blunder.

Mr. Mitterrand set off a political storm in France by meeting Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi in Crete and then admitting that Libyan soldiers were still in Chad despite a joint announcement that the withdrawal was over.

Since mid-November Paris has turned a deaf ear to appeals from the Chad government to send its troops back. The French have given Col. Qadhafi another chance to pull his men out, but have not — at least publicly — given him a deadline.

At last year's Franco-African meeting in the French spa town of Vittel, Chad President Hissene Habre faced pressure from other African heads of state to negotiate with his internal opponents.

At this year's meeting it may be Mr. Mitterrand who comes under pressure to say what he will do if the Libyans do not finally wit-